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King meets Waldheim

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received at Al Nadwa Palace former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim, who is currently on a private visit to Jordan. King Hussein and Dr. Waldheim exchanged views on various regional and international issues. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's advisors Marwan Al Qassem and Yousif Hikmat.

Princess Sumayah has twins

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court announced Monday night the birth of twins to Her Royal Highness Princess Sumayah, the daughter of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, and her husband Mr. Nasser Judeh. The twins, a boy and a girl, were named Tareq and Zein Al Sharaf. His Majesty King Hussein sent a congratulatory cable to Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on the happy event.

Arafat and Weizman meet in Pretoria

PRETORIA (R) — Palestine leader Yasser Arafat shook hands with Israeli President Ezer Weizman on Monday at talks with South Africa's President-elect Nelson Mandela, witnesses said. Mr. Mandela, who has made reconciliation a keynote of his policy for South Africa under black majority rule, held talks with the two men in the administrative capital Pretoria.

Iran paper says Saudis harassing pilgrims

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper said on Monday that Saudi Arabian police were harassing Iranian pilgrims and interfering with their religious activities. The English-language daily Kayhan International, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, said reports from the Holy City of Medina indicated that Saudi police "kept Iranian pilgrims under intense surveillance and that they are not left alone to do their religious duties." Pilgrims complained that Saudi police "mis-treated and insulted" them, the paper said.

Kidnapped Iranians taken to Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — Four Iranians who were kidnapped in 1982 by the disbanded Christian Lebanese Forces (CLF) militia were taken to Israel, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. The four were handed over to the Israeli authorities by militia belonging to former Christian warlord Samir Geagea, IRNA said, quoting sources close to Lebanon's Water and Power Minister Elie Hobeika. Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Mohsen Mussawi, diplomat Ahmad Motevasselian, embassy driver Taghi Rastegar-Moghaddam and a photojournalist from IRNA, Kazem Akhava, were kidnapped at an LF roadblock north of Beirut on July 4, 1982.

WEU admits East Europeans as associates

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The Western European Union (WEU) defence group opened its doors to nine former communist states in Eastern Europe on Monday, offering them a partnership of close political and military ties. Foreign and defence ministers from the WEU, meeting in Luxembourg, admitted six Eastern European countries and three Baltic republics as "associate partners" in the group. The countries admitted as partners were Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

Jordan, PLO open talks on economic accord today

Amman to seek clarifications on PLO intentions, impact of Paris deal

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) begin talks today on detailing the economic agreement they signed on Jan. 7. The talks are expected to be characterised by "requests for clarifications" before the two sides draw the mechanisms for the implementation of the accord, particularly with the PLO signed an economic agreement with Israel in April after months of negotiations in Paris.

Officials said the talks would go deep into the practical implementation of the Jan. 7 Jordan-PLO accord and that the Kingdom's delegates would be seeking clarifications on the implications for Jordan of the Paris accord.

Ahmad Qouriea, head of the economic department of the PLO, and five other Palestinian economists are expected to be in the PLO delegation to the talks.

Describing the Jan. 7 agree-

ment as a "broad framework agreement," PLO officials told the Jordan Times in Jerusalem that the two sides should now negotiate detailed Jordanian-PLO economic accord based on the previous broad framework.

They said amendments may be needed in the accord in light of the new powers Palestinians have gained in the Paris economic talks with Israelis (see other story).

"There are answers and details that we would like to have from the Palestinian negotiators," said an official, adding that only then "can we, in Jordan, play a positive role to serve the Palestinian people on a scientific and acceptable basis that also protects Jordanian and Palestinian interests."

This and other senior officials said Jordan needs to clarify details of the PLO-Israel agreement and other economic arrangements that the PLO had struck before the Kingdom draws up a detailed accord with the PLO.

The quest for these clarifica-

tions carries in its folds many of the fears that Jordanian officials have been trying to keep hidden pending the arrival of Mr. Qouriea in Jordan.

These fears began when the PLO signed the Oslo agreement with Israel without prior consultation with Jordan and have been repeatedly underlined since that time as the PLO shied away from committing itself to anything with Jordan before concluding its negotiations with Israel.

Repeatedly since then, Jordanian officials have been asking the PLO to coordinate its steps with the Kingdom to avoid hurting the interests of Jordan but at the same time had tried to extend support to the Palestinian negotiators so as not to undermine their negotiations with Israel.

At one time, His Majesty King Hussein issued an ultimatum to the PLO calling on it to coordinate an economic agreement with Jordan by a set date or all coordination would be called off.

(Continued on page 18)

Agreement with Israel does not contradict Amman document — PLO

By Wafa Amr
Special to the Jordan Times

JERUSALEM — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organi-

sation will initiate detailed negotiations on future economic relations between the Kingdom and the Palestinian self-rule areas on Tuesday in light of the PLO's economic accord with Israel, PLO officials said Monday.

When the details of the PLO-Israel economic agreement were first announced, Jordan officially welcomed the agreement as having achieved "symbols of sovereignty for the Palestinians."

Minister of Finance Sami Ghammoh at the time told the Jordan Times that the PLO should be credited for making gains that underline its independence and he rejected charges that the PLO-Israel agreement contradicted the agreement reached with Jordan.

However, other officials had expressed reservations about the agreement and questioned its ramifications on Jordan.

PLO officials, however, said the economic accord with Jordan was a broad framework agreement, and it kept the door open for amendments

pending an accord with Israel which allow Palestinians more powers.

The six-member Palestinian delegation to the economic talks with Jordan will be headed by director of the PLO's economic department Ahmad Qouriea.

"We should now negotiate additional detailed Jordan-PLO economic accords based on the previous broad framework agreement," said PLO economic negotiator Samir Huleileh. He said amendments may be needed in the Jan. 7 accord in light of the new powers Palestinians have gained in the Paris economic accord.

Mr. Huleileh, who was a member of the PLO delegation to the Paris talks with Israel emphasised that "what we achieved in the PLO-Israel economic accord did not contradict or ignore Jordan's economic interests and cooperation with Israel."

Some Jordanian officials privately criticised the Israel-PLO economic accord, saying it contradicted the Jordan-PLO economic cooperation accord.

PLO officials, however, said the economic accord with Jordan was a broad framework agreement, and it kept the door open for amendments

PLO-Israel economic accord a significant achievement. They said it lays the foundation for a future independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian officials contend that whereas the political PLO-Israel accord signed last week in Cairo achieved symbols of statehood such as three-year passports, postal stamps, etc., the economic accord actually gave the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) practical powers to control the economy up to a degree, until the Palestinians manage to end links with Israel's economy after 27 years of occupation.

According to the economic accord, Palestinians say, Israel will start dealing economically with the Palestinians on equal footing.

"The economic accord with Israel sets the principles for separation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It offers potential for a future Palestinian state," Huleileh said.

Palestinians consider the

(Continued on page 10)

Yemeni rivals trumpet claims

Combined agency despatches

RIVAL YEMENI armies trumpeting conflicting claims of victory struggled for supremacy around the strategic port of Aden on Monday as hundreds more foreigners fled the disintegrating Arab state.

Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, a member of Mr. Saleh's presidential council and a leader of his political party, said in Sanaa that northern forces had reached the Aden suburb of Bar Saad and other units were advancing on all fronts towards the city.

He also denied at a news conference southern reports that the northern Amaliga brigade had been routed.

Southern statements earlier said the Amaliga had been "totally destroyed" and that northern troops had been cleared from the approaches to Aden, where southern leaders were holed up in defiance of Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh.

The Amaliga have been totally destroyed ... they are running like scared cats," a military statement said. It said southern forces were gaining the upper hand throughout the south.

Iraq stepped into the conflict, saying Yemeni people were victims of a plot by Saudi Arabia to thwart efforts to have a strong and united Yemen on its southern borders.

"Those people who have in-

stigated this mutiny should give themselves in ... in order to stop further bloodshed they should do this," said Mr. Ghani. He said they would get fair trials.

The presidential council, formed after Yemen united, was made up of three northerners, including Mr. Saleh, and two southerners, including Mr. Beidh. The southerners had boycotted the council since the dispute erupted in August. Mr. Saleh dismissed Mr. Beidh last week.

Mr. Ghani, in a news conference with foreign media, denied the conflict was civil war.

"It is not between the people of the north and the people of the south. It is a question of people with the government and people who are mutinying against the government," he said.

He denied reports of heavy southern resistance to the north's advance and claimed the south's defence had collapsed.

He repeated the north's Sunday claim that some of its units had reached Aden's outskirts. He would not be specific, but in its earlier communiques broadcast by radio, the north claimed its forces had moved to within 20 kilometres of the southern capital.

The south has said hundreds have been killed in the conflict.

The north has rejected mediation efforts sought by the south and on Monday Mr. Abdul Ghani repeated its call on Mr. Beidh and other southern leaders to surrender.

"Those people who have in-



Klerk after the inaugural sitting of South Africa's first all-race parliament in Cape Town (AFP photo)

Mandela elected president, sees tough times ahead

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's black majority assumed power on Monday and Nelson Mandela, fresh from his election as president by the new all-race parliament, told the nation that the road ahead would not be easy.

The 75-year-old African National Congress (ANC) leader, who spent 27 years in prison for his fight for democracy, told thousands of jubilant well-wishers in Cape Town and a national television audience:

"The task at hand will not be easy ... but you have mandated us to change South Africa from a country in which the majority lived with little hope, to one in which they can live and work with dignity, with a sense of self-esteem and confidence in the future."

Several leading Palestinian exiles and some living in occupied territories are reluctant to join while others have asked for more time to make up their minds.

"Some have personal reasons, but most have political reasons, mainly about the democratic functioning of the PNA," a senior PLO official said.

Some PLO leaders at Mr. Arafat's Tunis headquarters urged to name representatives to take over powers from Israelis in the Gaza Strip, Mr. Arafat has named only two members of the PNA, Zakaria Al Agha, head of Gaza medical association, and Freih Abu Medin, head of the bar association.

A among senior PLO nominees who have rejected the offer are Mahmoud Abbas, Farouk Kaddoumi and Jamal Sourani, PLO sources say.

Senior Arafat adviser and spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo has not made up his mind.

(Continued on page 18)

He was speaking outside the city hall in Cape Town, the parliamentary capital where white minority rule began and its notorious instrument, apartheid, was imposed and abolished.

Mr. Mandela will be formally inaugurated as South Africa's first black head of state before a world audience in Pretoria, the administrative capital, on Tuesday.

Addressing a huge crowd on Cape Town's Grand Parade after the historic 91-minute parliamentary sitting was adjourned, he promised no easy road ahead after over three centuries of division and suspicion created by white domination.

"To raise our country and its people from the morass of racism and apartheid requires

termination and effort," he said close to the spot where the first whites stepped ashore in 1652, and within sight of the Robben Island penal colony where he spent 20 years for his fight against apartheid.

As elated Desmond Tutu, Anglican archbishop of Cape Town and a Nobel Peace Prize winner like Mr. Mandela and outgoing President F.W. de Klerk, announced the ANC leader to the cheering crowd.

"This is the day we have waited for 300 years, the day of liberation for all of us, black and white together," he said, before Cape Town's white woman mayor, Patricia de Klerk, formally presented Mr. Mandela to the crowd.

Mr. Mandela said his ANC

(Continued on page 10)

U.S. 'fine tuning' almost over in lifting Aqaba siege

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States has officially informed Jordan of its acceptance of the Kingdom's proposal to replace the sea-inspection of Aqaba-bound shipping with land-based verifications of cargo by the independent British company Lloyds Register, informed sources said Monday.

The sources said the U.S. decision was communicated to the Kingdom Sunday in a letter sent by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. American embassy sources declined comment when asked about the letter.

The sources said the U.S.

decision would remove the obstacle to Jordan's resumption of its active role in the Arab-Israeli peace process and is a step towards restoring Jordanian-U.S. "normal and friendly relations."

The sources, which requested anonymity, said the siege on Aqaba would be lifted after completing work on what they described as minor technicalities. That would be soon, they said.

They said the "fine-tuning" which Mr. Christopher referred to when he announced the acceptance of the Jordanian proposal in London on April 25 was almost over.

Mr. Christopher said at a joint press conference with His

Majesty King Hussein in London that the U.S. had accepted the Jordanian proposal to have Lloyds Register verify Aqaba-bound cargo once it is unloaded in the port instead of the sea-inspections which the Kingdom says had caused enormous losses to its economy.

The American decision came a few days after France announced it was withdrawing from the international forces inspecting Aqaba-bound shipping while enforcing the sanctions against Iraq.

Informed sources said that Canada had rejected an American offer to replace the French

(Continued on page 10)

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1994

Paris asks French nationals to leave Algeria after killings

PARIS (Agencies) — France has called on its nationals in Algeria to leave the country after a French monk and a nun were gunned down in an Algiers marketplace.

The foreign ministry called the shootings an "odious crime" after 64-year-old Father Henri-Barthelemy Verges and Sister Paule-Helene Saint-Raymond, 67, became the latest victims of a wave of killings in the country.

The two worked as librarians in a student library.

The ministry statement advised all French nationals whose presence in Algeria was not indispensable "to take the necessary measures to return to France" following the latest "act of barbarism."

The clerics' assassins managed to escape after the shooting in the strongly pro-Islamic Casbah part of Algiers' old quarter.

The killings came on a day when some 20,000 people marched through the streets of Algiers to call for national reconciliation.

Members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) refused to join in the march, as the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) threatened to kill any Islamists who opened a dialogue with the Algerian authorities.

Sunday's killings brought to 34 the number of foreigners assassinated in Algeria since Islamic militants last year warned non-Algerians to leave the country or face death. Ten of those killed were from former colonial power France.

The latest victims were the first clerics to die in the unrest, which began with the cancellation by the army of elections in January 1992 which the FIS appeared poised to win.

Officials meanwhile revealed 15 militants had been killed by security forces between Monday and Saturday in various regions of Algeria, eight of them in Algiers itself. Weapons were also recovered.

The wave of killings has prompted an exodus of French nationals but many longstanding residents have remained in Algeria, which gained independence from France in 1962. A foreign ministry spokesman was unable to say how many French citizens were still there.

The ministry said France's ambassador to Algiers was in contact with the Algerian authorities to express France's "serious concern" and to assess the situation.

A group suspected of being a front for supporters of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) denounced the killing of the two French religious workers.

The Algerian Fraternity in France (FAF) said in a state-

ment that it "condemned the double killing of two religious workers... which is no doubt the work of enemies of Algeria."

The FAF's president, Djafar Al Houari, was detained last November in a police roundup of 75 suspected militants and placed under house arrest in western France.

Police said the FAF was a front for supporters of the FIS.

Thousands of demonstrators, many of them veiled women and Muslim moderates, marched Sunday for peace talks and an end to a bloody insurgency by Islamic fundamentalists.

"Dialogue and an end to the flow of blood," read one banner in the procession in Algiers of about 12,000 people, twice that according to organisers.

An open letter to President Lamia Zeroual, read to the crowd, called for dialogue with all parties.

The march for national reconciliation, heavily guarded by police, was among several in cities across Algeria that were organised by four parties and 30 associations of moderate Muslims.

In Algiers about 500 women in veils joined with women in Western dress, ululating and waving roses along the three-kilometre route from May 1 Square to the Martyrs' Square.

The protest, however, was far smaller than the 100,000 predicted by organisers, who included the long-ruling National Liberation Front.

An estimated 4,000 people have been killed in the insurgency since the military-backed government cancelled January 1992 runoff elections the FIS was expected to win.

Votes had favoured the front as a way to unseat the National Liberation Front, accused of corruption and mismanagement since Algeria's independence from France in 1962.

The government has refused to talk with leaders who do not renounce violence but has been speaking with moderate members of the FIS.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi reiterated that he would support Saturday night and said he saw a return "as soon as possible" to the electoral process.

"Elections are the result of political dialogue," which he said "is open to all parties that respect the constitution."

No incidents were reported during Sunday's march in Algiers, but extremists had already cast a shadow on it.

On Tuesday an organiser was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen. Abdul Kader Kessab was a leading member of an association for children of veterans from Algeria's 1954-62 war for independence from France.

"There is not a military

Israel letting PLO make Jerusalem capital — Olmert

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Rightist mayor Ehud Olmert marked 27 years of Israeli occupation over the holy city's Arab half on Monday by saying Israel is letting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) turn East Jerusalem into the capital of a future Palestinian state.

In an interview on the anniversary of East Jerusalem's seizure according to the Jewish calendar, Mr. Olmert told Davar daily:

"The government is in fact reconciling itself to a reality in which (East) Jerusalem has turned into a kind of capital city for a Palestinian entity that is forming itself into a state."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in remarks broadcast by Israel Radio on Monday, said he would not "divide" Jerusalem:

"I would see Jerusalem united under Israeli sovereignty as Israel's capital for as long as man can foresee."

The future of Jerusalem, and a furiously-paced Jewish settlement programme ringing the city, are among the most volatile issues underlying Israeli-PLO peace talks.

The sides agreed to post-

pone discussions on the city, all of which Israel claims as its "eternal capital" to enable agreement on other, less sensitive issues.

Mr. Olmert, who trounced dovish Teddy Kollek in elections last year, opposes any "concessions" to Palestinians, who make up about 150,000 of the city's 530,000 residents.

"The PLO is turning East Jerusalem into a capital city that supplies central services and in which central institutions are operating," he said.

"I don't know why the government let's this go on."

East Jerusalem, the economic, cultural, and religious hub of the occupied territories, is the base of major Palestinian political and social welfare institutions.

Though Mr. Rabin opposes Palestinian statehood, some ministers in his centre-left government back the idea as inevitable.

Mr. Olmert said the government, which signed an agreement last week in Cairo implementing Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, should not sign the Cairo agreement until Israel stopped building in occupied territory.

"The government is afraid to prevent these steps, fearing it will cast a shadow over the agreement with Arafat," Mr. Olmert said.

Washington, which helped push Israel and the PLO to clinch their peace deal, protested to Israel in December over fervent Jewish home building in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Olmert at the time said Israel's chief ally should mind its own business.

In March 1993, reacting to a spate of guerrilla attacks, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, effectively cutting off East Jerusalem from the occupied territories.

The closure relaxed somewhat over the last year but on April 7 Israel tightened it after a suicide bomber killed eight Israelis in Afula town.

The closures, and self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, have sharpened Palestinian demands for a change in the city's status.

Leading Palestinians in the territories even said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat should not sign the Cairo agreement until Israel stopped building in occupied territory.

ies, including East Jerusalem.

Police were on high alert to prevent any attacks as thousands thronged to the holy city on Monday to celebrate 27 years of Israel's occupation of the city.

Over 2,000 police and paramilitary border police took up posts throughout Jerusalem, including the old walled City, to protect the crowds visiting the predominantly Arab eastern half, a police spokeswoman said.

At the western wall, Jewish seminary students danced "hora" circle dances and waved Israeli flags. Some slept on the ground, cradling assault rifles in their arms after a night of dancing and prayer.

Thousands of Jewish settlers were scheduled to march along the city's main Jaffa road to the western wall late Monday for a fireworks celebration.

Arab merchants kept their shops shut as Palestinians held a general strike to mark the monthly anniversary of the start of their revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied territories. It began Dec. 9, 1987.

Two-thirds of Israelis to remain in Gaza

they were slightly wounded earlier Sunday when a patrol was attacked north of Gaza City.

Gen. Vilnai said it was not clear what would happen if Israeli troops attacked to chase Palestinian attackers trying to flee into autonomous areas.

The accord signed last Wednesday in Cairo allows Israel hot pursuit into Palestinian areas but stipulates such cases should be turned over to the Palestinian police as soon as possible.

Gen. Vilnai said "much will depend on the commanders in the field." He stressed, however, that in the past five years he did not remember a single case of an assailant escaping the area of an attack and then being captured by pursuing forces.

Asked if the army had plans to reoccupy Gaza if, necessary, Gen. Vilnai said: "I led a battalion that occupied Gaza in 1967, and I hope it will be the last time."

Israel has imposed such tough conditions on the self-rule deal struck with the PLO that it cannot lead to a Palestinian state, Israeli Culture Minister Shulman Aloni said Sunday.

If the British had imposed the same restrictions on us in 1948 as we have imposed on the Palestinians in the Cairo accord we would never have had the state of Israel," she said.

Ms. Aloni was speaking after the weekly cabinet meeting during which the documents signed in Cairo by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat were presented.

The cabinet is to meet again Wednesday to approve the accord before it is presented the same day to the Israeli parliament.

"It now has to be applied as quickly as possible so that we are not the last people in the world to oppress another," Ms. Aloni added.

Israel's electricity company has threatened to cut supplies to the Gaza Strip from Wednesday because the territory's residents are \$12 million in arrears on bills, Israeli radio reported Sunday.

The report came as the Israel-PLO committee on the transfer of civilian authorities to the Palestinians met at the Erez crossing between Israel and Gaza.

Under the May 4 PLO-Israel deal on self-rule, the future Palestinian authority will have to foot the arrears.

Israeli TV reporter broadcasts from Syria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel Television broadcast a news report from Syria on Sunday, despite the still-existing state of war between both countries.

The report included an interview with George Habash, a Palestinian guerrilla leader who rejected the autonomy accord and who has vowed to continue attacks on Israeli targets.

Syria is still a stickler on banning entry to anyone associated with Israel, and Syrian officials overseas have consistently refused to answer questions from Israeli reporters, despite ongoing peace talks with Israel.

Many other Arab countries have allowed in Israeli journalists travelling on other passports with minimum trouble. But journalists crossing into Syria have reported being closely questioned about any associations with Israel.

A Syrian official who unwittingly gave an interview to a European television team acting on Israel Television's behalf earlier this year was reportedly sacked soon after.

Syrians can pick up Israel TV, and the report broadcast a shot of a Syrian television set tuned into the Israeli news.

Reporter Linda Scherzer spent 10 days in Syria to assess Syrian street reactions to last week's accord which will introduce Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Her report showed opposition to the agreement, especially among Palestinian refugees. Dr. Habash said his Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine would continue attacks on Israel, but would avoid attacking Palestinian forces.

The report did not include any interviews with Syrian officials. It did not say whether Ms. Scherzer, who is Canadian, told her interview subjects she is Israeli, and it abandoned standard practice by not screening the names of her production team.

Palestinian officer returns to bring law and order to his people

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — Major General Ibrahim Awad left Gaza a humiliated officer, trudging for eight days through the scorching sands of the Sinai desert to Egypt after Israel seized the strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

He returned Thursday, part of a 20-man vanguard of the Palestinian police force that is to bring law and order to the unruly streets of the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of police still in Egypt, Jordan and Iraq will take up their posts soon.

Gen. Awad said his first encounter with Israeli officers who came to greet the Palesti-

nians was not easy.

"When I first put my hand in the hand of the Israeli officer, I felt my blood boil," said Gen. Awad, 47. "Conflicting emotions were raging within me. But my mind finally won over my heart and the ice has started to melt."

Gen. Awad's group is in Gaza to prepare for the deployment of 9,000 Palestinian policemen in the strip and the West Bank town of Jericho under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement.

Theirs is a daunting task. They face the challenge of bringing order to people used to rebelling against men in uniform. They also have to make sure that Israel is not

attacked from inside their territory.

Gen. Awad brings with him years of experience as a fighter and as a self-styled politician.

In 1967, he fired anti-tank rounds at Israeli troops. He later participated in anti-Israeli guerrilla raids from South Lebanon and fired artillery guns at Israeli soldiers when they surrounded Palestinian refugee camps during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Gen. Awad became a member of a liaison committee in Beirut, negotiating with his enemies to put an end to the fighting.

"I'm used to this kind of work," said Gen. Awad, now a member of the liaison commit-

tee coordinating the handover of power with the Israelis.

Gen. Awad will command a police contingent in the central Khan Younis area where he first began fighting against Israel in 1966 as a lieutenant in the Palestine Liberation Army.

Like Gen. Awad, the bulk of the policemen who will deploy in the autonomous areas will come from abroad. Only 2,000 have been recruited from Gaza and the West Bank.

Gen. Awad was born in the village of Hamamieh, south of the Israeli town of Ashdod and only about 30 kilometres north of Gaza City. His family left Hamamieh during the 1948 Middle East war.

Since Gen. Awad was only

two at the time, he was placed on the family cow for the trek to Gaza City. There, they settled in a refugee camp during one of the most severe winters in the region.

"My earliest memory is that of my parents brushing snow from our tent," said Gen. Awad, adding that "I always knew I wanted to become an officer to liberate Palestine."

After graduating from the military academy in Egypt in June 1966, Gen. Awad went back to the Gaza Strip and joined a PLA battalion stationed in Khan Younis.

On June 5, 1967, the first day of the war, Gen. Awad sat in his tent dreaming of the victory that would come the

second day.

"They promised us victory but we got defeat," said Gen. Awad. "It was like being promised a gift, only to be told the next day there will be no gift. I felt shocked and demoralised."

"If we had the experience we have now, we would have won that war," he added.

Asked how he felt about not realising his dream of getting back all of Palestine, Gen. Awad said: "I'm happy that after the struggle we got something. It's not enough, but it's better than nothing. I've told the Israeli officers that as long as the intentions are good, coexistence will be possible."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

FOR THE TRAVELLER

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

MARKET PRICES

<h3

Home News

Senate ratifies draft tenancy law

By Karonza Jadoun
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Monday ratified the draft tenancy law which was referred to it after approval by the Lower House.

The draft legislation was ratified after amendments to some of its clauses that were debated during the four-hour session.

The draft law under consideration is a 1982 temporary law that was issued at the time by the government. According to the Constitution any temporary law should be referred to Parliament to be debated and either ratified or repealed.

Monday's Senate debate focused on a proposal by Senators Jawdat Shboul and Kamal Shaer on Article 5, which orders that leases reached before the law goes

into effect shall remain valid. New leases, however, will be binding to signatory parties as written, the senators proposed.

Senators Shboul and Shaer said their proposal was aimed at encouraging investment by landlords who earlier feared that tenants were becoming the actual owners of rented properties in accordance with the temporary law.

After a lengthy debate, however, the new proposal was rejected and the Senate ratified the Article as it was referred to it by the Lower House.

The senate amended Paragraph Three of Clause C of Article 5 which originally stipulated that if the tenant subleased the property or part of it to another party without a written acceptance from the landlord, the tenant can be evicted.

The amendment states that in cases where the tenant may be responsible for another member of his family this clause would not apply.

Another point of contention was Article 7. Naela Rashdan proposed that this article be amended to allow any woman arbitrarily divorced with custody of children to have the right to keep the rental of her home with her ex-husband for herself and her children even if the husband ended the lease.

Rapporteur Ahmad Tarawneh opposed this amendment saying that the landlord should not be affected by such family matters, and he considered the divorced wife as a new tenant who is not related by any means to the original tenant, that is the husband.

But the senate agreed on Senator Rashdan's amendment and ratified it.

Discussion also covered the siege on Aqaba, the situation in Bosnia and the economic situation in Jordan.

Visiting German politicians meet with House committee

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 22-member team representing political parties in the parliament of Lower Saxony in Germany Monday met here with the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament and discussed the Middle East peace process and issues of common interest to Jordan and Germany.

An official at the German embassy here told the Jordan Times that the team, which arrived Saturday on a three-day visit to Jordan, was briefed by the committee's chairman, Abdul Hadi Majali, on the general political situation in the region, progress in the peace process and other issues.

Discussion also covered the siege on Aqaba, the situation in Bosnia and the economic situation in Jordan.

mic situation in Jordan, which, Mr. Majali said, was severely affected by the economic blockade on Aqaba.

Mr. Majali called on Germany to help the Kingdom overcome these difficulties and thanked Bonn for its continued support of Jordan's stand.

The German embassy official said that the team includes members of German labour unions who are interested in learning about the country's economic situation and its labour union movement.

She said the team visited the Arab Potash Company (APC) headquarters in Amman and was briefed on the company's operations and the contribution of workers towards promoting production and their involvement in decision making related to their company's operations.

House condemns 'foreign attempts' to fuel civil war in Yemen

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Monday condemned "possible attempts by foreign groups" to fuel the civil war in Yemen in what was seen as an indirect reference to some Gulf countries that have been allegedly supplying arms and money to the parties to the conflict.

Urging Yemenis to exert all possible efforts to solve their conflict through dialogue, the House called on the Yemeni people to "give up arms and violence" in order to preserve their unity.

"The major victim of the war will be the Yemeni unity, which is the core of Arab unity," the House said in a statement.

President Saleh seems determined to settle the conflict with his southern foes militarily amidst calls from Aden that it is willing to accept foreign mediation.

Referring to Jordan's hosting of the signing ceremony of the Yemeni reconciliation accord in February, the House said its concern with the situation in Yemen stems from its belief in the necessity of maintaining all that is positive in the Arab World.

The conflict between the formerly north and south Yemeni leaders to Amman to sign

the reconciliation accord in February, but said last month that Jordan was leaving a military commission charged with separating northern and southern Yemeni troops.

Indications that the civil war was instigated and supported by foreign countries also came from the Jordan Press Association which said the bloody events in Yemen "could open the door (to interfere in the conflict) for suspicious foreign sides that work against the interests of the (Arab) nation and its aspiration for unity." The association said in a statement that the fighting in Yemen poses a threat to Arab national security.

Al Dostour daily said in an editorial that the civil war in Yemen could be the making of countries that are trying to punish Yemen for its stands on regional development, in what was seen as a reference to Yemen's opposition to the foreign coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991. The paper did not name these countries, but the reference was believed to be to some Arab Gulf countries.

Jordanians form group to prevent family violence

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of Jordanian scholars and intellectuals has formed the Violence-Free Society to minimise and prevent what they see as "increased violence in Jordanian families," according to sociologist Sabri Rheebehat.

Dr. Rheebehat told the Jordan Times that the new society is a voluntary and non-profit organisation with one goal on its agenda — "a violence-free society."

"One of our organisation's priorities is to raise public awareness towards the dangers of a non-democratic communication between family members, and to cut down on violence in the family," Dr. Rheebehat said.

He said in many cases reported, family members resort to violence instead of communicating and listening and constructively participating in all family affairs, adding that some members express their failure to communicate rationally and use reason by turning to violence.

According to Ahmad Khalaf, a psychiatrist in the private sector, who is also a volunteer member in the

society, in recent years, some social data in Jordan included reported incidents of spouse and child abuse, and "the actual incidents of such abuse is difficult to determine without our detailed studies."

These studies, Dr. Khalaf said, face various obstacles since "there has been no sign so far of willingness among our society to talk about the subject openly."

"Physical punishment against women and children is a serious problem and should be open for questioning because unfortunately, some parents are unable to distinguish discipline from distingue," Dr. Khalaf said.

Dr. Rheebehat pointed out that in general, Jordan spent a large proportion of its resources on its infrastructure and "for the past five or six years we turned to people and we started emphasising the need for love, care and attachment and focusing on psychological and mental well-being."

"This shift is very important because it affects the quality of people's lives as much as their income in life," he said.

Dr. Khalaf defined violence in a psychological perspective saying that violence could be defined with various meanings. "Violence is a trend inherited in human beings, and it is one of the

characteristics of every human being," Dr. Rheebehat said.

Moreover, the sociologist said the society will recruit volunteers to organise picnics for children to educate them on ways of communicating and discussing topics about their own society and comprehending it.

"We believe that we ought to approach people who never received the quality of help they deserve and affect their lives with mild intervention," he said.

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characteristics of every human being," Dr. Khalaf said.

In our case (the new society) we mean to prevent physical violence, mainly against women and children.

"Like all other problems, violence in the family is rooted in the structure of the society, where power and authority are taken and accessed to the resources that are distributed to certain groups or figures," he said.

Dr. Khalaf cited a study conducted abroad explaining that spouse and child abuse are not limited to any particular class. He compared the West's experiences with Jordan's saying, "abroad, children, especially newborns are abused more by their mothers, while in Jordan we see a different trend; older children are still under the mercy of the first family figure, the father."

Other cases of battered children, according to Dr. Khalaf, are results of unwanted pregnancies. He said solutions to overcome such problems require immediate attention. In cases of battered or divorced women, the society will work to secure

jobs and homes for these women, he added.

Dr. Khalaf said the society's aims include studying the magnitude of the problem in Jordan and presenting solutions accordingly, reviewing suggestions to have children's rights brought to light and establishing a new criteria with some legal changes to be put forward against child abuse.

The main goal of the society is not to preach against violence and promote adjustment behaviour, Dr. Khalaf said, but rather to study the cases of adjustment behaviour and to present proper treatment as well as solutions for this "morbid phenomena."

"This is just the beginning, and we know we have to work hard until we can achieve and fulfill our motives," said Dr. Khalaf.

According to Dr.

Rheebehat, other scholars who have volunteered their time and expertise to the new society include Senator Naela Rashdan, Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, president of the General Union of Jordanian Women and Sami Nasser, a sociologist at the University of Jordan.

Mysterious death in Wadi Mousa remains under investigation by police

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Wadi Mousa police are investigating the mysterious death of a 30-year-old man, whose body was discovered Sunday by a shepherd in Al Hajjin area near Wadi Mousa, a police report said.

The shepherd, who was not identified, told police he was grazing his sheep in that area when he discovered the body.

Preliminary investigations indicated that the dead man, identified as Hussein Qassem, had no bruises, and

there were no signs of violence on the body.

Police said they were investigating the incident and would not release any further details. The authorities said they had transferred the body to Al Bashir Hospital for autopsy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

BALLET

* Ballet performance by Al-Ahliya School for Girls students at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:30 p.m.

FILMS

* Chilean film entitled "Sussi" at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (108 minute).

* Film in Arabic entitled "Al Bait" (The House) at Abdal Hamed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

LECTURE

* Lecture in Arabic entitled "The Political System in Kuwait: After the Gulf War" by Dr. Ahmad Nofal of the University of Jordan at Abdal Hamed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

* ABC News Highlights and MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

ARAB POETS GATHERING

* Poetry recital by Arab poets at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m. (Tel. 652919).

TV5 PROGRAMME

* A variety programme transmitted by TV5 Europe station entitled "Savoir Plus" at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition by Iraqi artist Shawkat Al Rubale at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 659348).

* Exhibition of Ikebana the traditional Japanese art of flower arranging at the Marriott Hotel.

* Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreib and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Elmeshiekh at Am Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652623).

* Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 657598).

* Spring exhibition of "Artists Expressions in Wool," the Ram Hamida project of art works and rugs at the Jordan Contractors Association Building in Abdoun (Tel. 621269).

* "Spring Exhibitions" (quilts, cushions, lamp shades, etc) at the Zawadeh Hall opposite the Contractor's Association in Abdoun (Tel. 656172).

* Exhibition of silk paintings by artist Souad Nemeh Akrouk at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Exhibition of paintings by artists Walid Sheet and Nezem Hamed at Alia Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).

* Art exhibition by Bashir Ibrahim at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hamed Shoman Foundation in Jabel Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 6432512).

* Exhibition by artist Mohammad Muhraddin at Ab'dad Art Gallery.

* Exhibition by artists Dr. Ali Ghoul, Hussein Da'seh, Adnan Al Sharif, Abdal Hossain Tawali, Salman Abbas, and Hafez Al Droubi at Orefi Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

Australian meat group to open office in Amman

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC) will open a regional office in Amman within three months to promote the sale of live sheep to the region, particularly to Jordan, according to Supply Minister Radi Ibrahim.

The minister told the Jordan Times that he learned of the decision Monday in a meeting with AMLC Chairman John Kerin with whom he discussed trade issues and the regional office's planned operations.

According to the minister, the centre would be entrusted with conducting studies on prospects of live sheep trade between Australia and the countries of the region and making recommendations to the Australian government accordingly.

The creation of the regional office here came as a fruit of talks between Mr. Ibrahim and Australian officials, during his tour last month in Australia and talks held in Amman last February with Hendy Cowan, who headed a delegation from the Western Australia Ministry of Com-

merce and Trade during a visit to Jordan.

It is hoped that through this office more livestock would be sold to Jordan in barter exchanges for Jordanian phosphate-based fertilisers, said Mr. Ibrahim.

Australian embassy sources in Amman said that Jordan last year imported \$67 million worth of Australian sheep and dairy products against \$5 million worth of phosphate and some fertilisers.

According to the embassy, Mr. Kerin discussed with Mr. Ibrahim prospects of Jordan importing fresh chilled meat from Australia. This will become possible when Royal Jordanian, which has acquired landing rights in Sydney, starts flying to Australia and will be able to transport shipments of fresh meat, said the embassy.

According to the embassy, the office will be directly in charge of trade with Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon. Before his departure, Mr. Kerin met with Agriculture Minister Mohammad Farhan to discuss cooperation in agricultural matters.

According to the embassy official, Mr. Kerin extended an invitation for two Jordanian veterinarians to visit Australia to benefit from modern techniques used in veterinary services and quarantine systems in force in Australia.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Karak woman gives birth to triplets

KARAK (Petra) — A Jordanian woman Monday gave birth to triplets at Al Karak Government Hospital after caesarean surgery. Hospital director Saad Mdani said the newborns, all boys, weighed 2.65, 2.501 and 2.0 kilogrammes, and were listed in good condition. Gynaecologists and obstetrician Jirees Salaya, who supervised the surgery, said the prospects of giving birth to triplets are one in 8,000 births.

Jordan wins 1st prize at Istanbul contest

ISTANBUL (Petra) — Jordan won first prize in an international traditional children's arts competition which was held in Istanbul, Turkey, with the participation of groups representing 54 countries. Jordan was represented at the festival by the Haya Cultural Centre's art troupe which includes 30 children aged 8 to 12. Centre Director Nabin Riyali told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Swedish trade team to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Swedish trade council delegation will arrive in Amman Tuesday on a several-day visit to Jordan. The delegation members will hold talks with officials representing the Amman Chamber of Commerce and other economic and trade institutions on means of enhancing Jordanian-Swedish trade relations.

Industry and the AMLC to assist with the efficient

Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

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Talks to avoid problems

THE JORDANIAN-PLO new round of economic consultations and negotiations aiming to put some flesh on the bones of the accord between the two sides could prove to be an opportune occasion to gauge properly the extent of any discrepancies that may exist between the Jan. 6 agreement and the PLO-Israeli economic accord struck in Paris last week. The fact that the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement was basically a declaration of principles rather than a detailed economic package provides room for differing interpretations by both Jordan and the PLO. But provided there is sufficient political will on the part of the PLO to live up to its long standing commitment to put its relations with Jordan ahead of its relations with Israel any differences of the kind can be solved and rather quickly. As the Paris economic pact contained enough detailed information to cast doubt on the willingness of the PLO to accord Jordan a preferential treatment, there is every fear that things can somehow go wrong from here. The place of the Jordanian currency in the Palestinian territories and the Jordanian Central Bank can, for instance, be negatively affected during the interim period by any predominance in using the Israeli shekel and following Israeli monetary policies. The creation of virtually one customs union between the Palestinian territories and Israel also has to be worrying, even though there are clauses in the Paris agreement that can accommodate legitimate Jordanian interests.

Jordan would want to give the PLO side the benefit of the doubt, as it has done so often in the past, by waiting to see how the Palestinian leadership intends to address the outstanding issues. Better still this country would want to watch and see how the arrival of Mr. Ahmed Qouriea, the chief PLO economic negotiator, could rectify the shortcomings of the January accord and put to rest Jordan's qualms about what happened in Paris. In the final analysis what is even more important than the fine economic issues that would be discussed starting today would be the overall assessment of the PLO-Jordanian relations. Does the PLO seek to have the kind of relations with Jordan that it purports to desire or does it wish to submit to Israeli designs and become an economic tool in its hands? The people of this country have a stake in appropriate economic relations with the West Bank and Gaza Strip just as the Palestinian people have a vested interest in maintaining the best of relations with their brethren across the river.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

REGARDLESS of the charges and counter-charges exchange by the Yemeni leaders over the current fighting in Yemen, all indications point to the fact that external forces are fueling the conflict, said Al Dostour daily Monday. External influences are very dangerous because they tend to sow the seeds of permanent conflict and dissent, and are bound to totally destroy Yemen's dream of unity, said the paper. One cannot rule out the notion that the conflict in Yemen is by no means isolated from the conspiracies being concocted by hostile forces to create regional unrest, it said. These forces plot, said the paper, could be part of a general plan to impose punishment on the Yemeni people for adopting policies with which certain regional or international powers are not happy. Therefore, it added, there is urgent need for the Arabs to ensure non-interference by foreign parties, and at the same time halt all arms supplies to both sides involved in the conflict. While we watch with pain the ongoing fighting among brothers, added the daily, we are appalled at the loss of innocent life and the destruction of property and economic and social infrastructure.

MAHMOUD Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, expressed appreciation of France's position with regard to the siege on Aqaba and its recent decision to stop its participation in the inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels. France is to be thanked for its independent stand from that of the United States and its unbiased attitude and keenness on alleviating Jordan's economic ordeal, said the writer. Following Baghdad's favourable response to the United Nations demands and the U.N. inspectors' wishes, France, Russia and China have displayed readiness to lift the embargo in Iraq, and likewise Paris is now showing its stand by halting inspection of ships bound for Jordan, the writer added. The French stand reflects the conviction on the part of Paris that Jordan has nothing to do with the Gulf conflict in the first place and that the siege on Aqaba was unjustified and it also clearly points to the fact that France is keen on maintaining strong ties with the Kingdom, said the writer. Mr. Rimawi said that France is now trying to compensate Jordan for the severe damage caused by the siege through continued economic aid to the country.

By Valerie Yorke

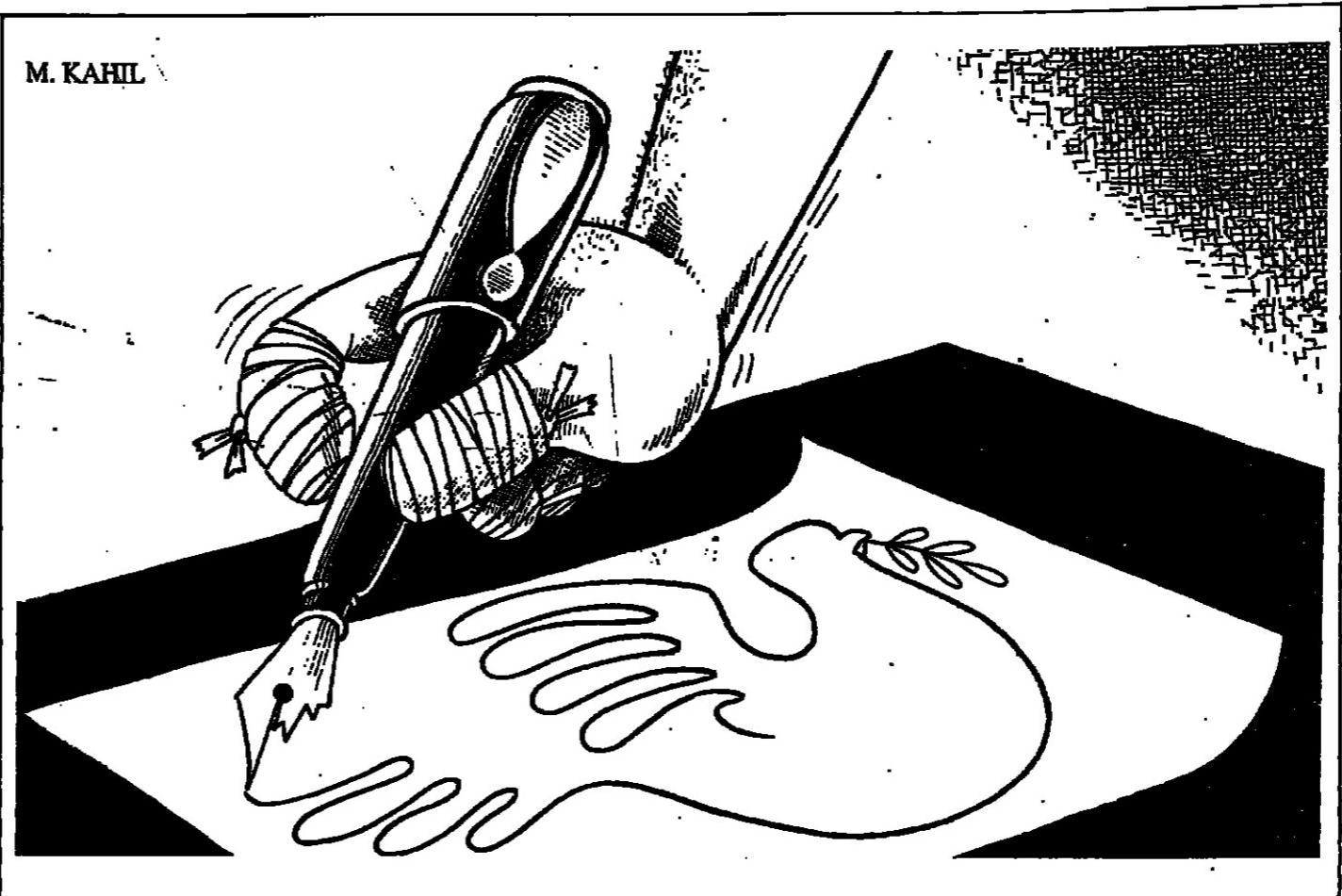
The fact that the Declaration of Principles (DoP) in itself did nothing to bridge the irreconcilable demands of Israel and the Palestinians made the economic component of the declaration a key element to agreement in Oslo. There was recognition that the Israelis and Palestinians had to be given a stake in the process if they were to provide the support required. The interests of neighbouring Arab states also had to be addressed and incentive provided for them to support the new momentum rather than spoil it. The DoP's provisions for economic development in the occupied territories, broad Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation and the prospect of a regional development programme of which Israel would be part could not, of course, guarantee the accord's success. However, the negotiations calculated that these three economic pillars would be crucial in winning over Israelis, Palestinians and Arabs and in ensuring that any subsequent political agreements endured.

The importance of steps towards Israeli-Palestinian and wider regional cooperation proceeding simultaneously with economic development in the occupied territories was recognised in Oslo. But it is also the case that the areas identified for economic cooperation within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian Continuing Committee and in the protocol on regional cooperation have placed Israel at an advantage in negotiations with the Palestinians and the Arab states, and amount to a reward. The Palestinians for their part regard the protocols as the price they paid for recognition, in view of the fact that there is no provision for correcting the distortions imposed by the occupation and that the issues of the settlements, Jerusalem, refugees and borders are not addressed.

The fact is that those negotiating the DoP — the occupier and the occupied — did so from a position of inequality which inevitably affects the scope for manoeuvre of both sides as they try to achieve their preferred economic arrangements. The result of Israel's occupation policies has been to distort economic development in the occupied territories, leaving them highly dependent on Israel for employment of labour, for outlets for exports and for industrial inputs. For Israel, the West Bank and Gaza constitute its second largest market, while much of its agriculture and services depend on cheap Palestinian labour. This skewed inter-dependence means that any restructuring of trade and labour flows and levels of taxation will have important repercussions for both economies.

The outcome of the bilateral economic talks is thus crucial to both sides. At present they are deeply divided over Israel's proposals for a customs union. Israel wants to protect its agriculture at home and its markets in the occupied territories, while the Palestinians are striving to dismantle the distortions of the occupation and establish a better balance in trade relations with their Israeli and Arab neighbours. At the same time, Israel's need for access to markets in the West Bank and Gaza and for economic ties with the broader region, and the Palestinians' need for Israeli inputs for much of its manufacturing, suggest that mutually acceptable trade-offs can be found. One such is a

M. KAHIL



quasi-customs union — with Israel and the Palestinians agreeing to mutually acceptable but differing levels of tariffs to be applied to different categories of goods entering the self-rule area from Jordan. In return, the Palestinian would undertake to turn and persuade the Arabs to relax the terms of the Arab boycott to permit the export of their own manufactured goods containing Israeli inputs. The negotiated results are likely to bring mutual benefits, but there is a recognition that without eventual moves towards genuine cooperation between equals the necessary confidence will not be created to attract private-sector investment to the new Palestinian entity. The all important growth required to sustain development (once international funds dry up) and on which the success of the accord ultimately depends, will not take place.

Regionally, the DoP provides for drawing the international community and regional states into a network of economic ties with Israel without the latter either renouncing its claim to the West Bank and Gaza or committing itself to full withdrawal. Using the international and regional support for the DoP to strengthen its argument, Israel has pressed for an end to the Arab boycott, to which the Arab states' official response has been that such a decision can only be taken by the Arab League once Israel commits itself to withdrawal on the basis of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. However, one indication of the way in which the DoP is changing Arab thinking on the boycott comes from Jordan. A key distinction is now being drawn between political normalisation, meaning full diplomatic relations with Israel, which will only be forthcoming with a final peace treaty, and the reaching of reciprocal and mutually satisfactory agreements with Israel beforehand.

Prospects for a comprehensive peace
The Israeli-PLO decision to pursue a path of reconciliation unleashed an undeniable momentum on both the Israeli-Palestinian track and in Israel's talks with Jordan and Syria. However, the Oslo breakthrough and the push provided

by the international aid effort will not be enough to ensure their continuation. At some stage the parties will insist — and it is ultimately in the interests of the international community that they do — on clarifying the destination of the process. If this falls short of their minimal goals, then the process will lose credibility and all support. By putting the settlements issue on the agenda, the Hebron massacre has effectively brought forward the moment of clarification. A number of problems flow from this.

The first problem is inter-party. This concerns the irreconcilability of the parties' minimum goals and competing claims for land, rooted in the aspirations and security perceptions of their leaders and supporters. There is no indication that Yitzhak Rabin has relaxed his opposition to a Palestinian state or that, even were he or his successors to do so, they would convince the Israeli public that this was compatible with Israel's security. Mr. Arafat, meanwhile, is likely to continue to present the DoP as the first step towards the Palestinians' goal of an independent state, despite mounting scepticism within the Palestinian camp that this is achievable.

A second problem is that scope for statesmanship is limited by domestic preoccupations with power. Both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat are under pressure to persuade the sceptics that the DoP serves their interests to a greater degree than is apparent. Inherent in all of this is the danger that in playing to their publics, whose support they need to continue, the leaderships have inadvertently re-erected the barriers of hostility, losing sight of the shared vision that underpinned their original accord. Furthermore, the difficulties of forging a balance between winning support from their publics and reaching the compromises to keep up momentum have resulted in months of delay, which has carried a political price. Rejectionists on both sides have shown their capacity for violence which could at any moment escalate out of control. Meanwhile, continuing Israeli political repression in the occupied territories has critically eroded political support for

both the PLO and the DoP. Against this backdrop, the weaker party — Yasser Arafat's PLO — was apparently under pressure to concede in the runup to the conclusion of the agreement on Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

The third problem is intra-Palestinian. The Palestinians are now deeply divided over the merits of the DoP and the peace process and in the debate over the political and economic issues connected with the transition. Mr. Arafat's failure to address the discontent on either score has thrown his leadership into question because the Palestinians feel that he has put their goal of a state at grave risk.

The problem is that the two accords with Israel are perceived to have rendered an independent state unachievable, because Israel has neither renounced its claim to the land of the West Bank and Gaza nor admitted its status as occupier. The fear is that the PLO's acquiescence in this suggests that its commitment to an independent state has weakened parts, and that the current talks based on the DoP amount to the Palestinians reaching a new modus vivendi on Israeli terms under which they stand to win a fractured entity of divided

parts, not an independent state. All this suggests that Mr. Arafat has a choice either to continue to succumb to American and Israeli pressures to concede and engage in tactical manoeuvring to achieve momentum towards some ill-defined goal, which is less than a state; or to rebuild a tougher, coherent strategy that puts the Palestinian national aspiration for a state back on the agenda — a move which will require pressing for renegotiation of the DoP.

A fourth problem revolves around the interplay between the Madrid framework and the domestic and regional policies of the Arab states. The Arab World always accepted that the different timing and separation of the bilateral tracks was likely to be exploited by Israel, and that there was no guarantee that all tracks could reach a negotiated solution, let alone on all issues at the same time. They have therefore constantly reiterated their commitment to a comprehensive settlement based on

U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 involving full Israeli withdrawal and self-determination for the Palestinians. In the event the DoP, though concerned with the Palestinian interim phase, introduced a dynamic for change in the wider process. For Jordan and Syria, it removed past inhibitions over moving ahead of the Palestinians. Neither wants to lose out on the political and economic benefits to be had from the process under way by seeming reluctant to join it, although both have been careful to keep their Arab credentials intact — as their withdrawal from the bilateral talks after the Hebron massacre demonstrated.

The day after the signing of the DoP, Jordan signed its own agenda for talks with Israel. Subsequently it formed a tri-lateral committee with the United States and Israel and reached an agreement with Israel on banking in the West Bank. Jordan's objectives were to win the goodwill of the United States and to position itself to exert leverage over developments on the West Bank which will inevitably impinge on Jordan's economic and political security. In the process it has turned its approach to the peace process on its head. While the goal remains the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, the reaching of interim arrangements to arrive at such a peace is now both justified and required. Normalisation with Israel in the sense of full diplomatic relations depends on mutually satisfactory arrangements being reached in all areas that permit a peace treaty to be signed.

President Hafez Al Assad's

moves have been consistent

with his aim of crafting a lead-

ership for Syria on the post

cold war regional map and

finding a new source of legiti-

macy for his minority regime

based on Syria's civil develop-

ment. A positive attitude to-

wards the peace process qualifies

Syria as a partner in an Ameri-

can regional design and

any accompanying economic

rewards. But Mr. Assad will be

tough on the basis that Syria's

claim to the Golan is backed by

international law, while wait-

ing to see how the Israeli

Palestinian track proceeds.

Moreover, Mr. Assad wants

Syria to be the key to peace,

setting the terms and endorsing the final act, and insists that there can be no talk of peace with Israel until a comprehensive settlement is reached. He can afford to wait in the knowledge that Jordan will not (and Lebanon cannot) make a separate peace. There can be no comprehensive peace without Syria, and Mr. Assad's calculation may be that Israel's desire for peace could result in a key role for Damascus in extracting more generous terms from Israel for the Palestinians.

Conclusion

After decades of conflict, dramatic change is unfolding in the Middle East as a result of the Madrid peace process and the Oslo accord to which it gave birth. Even after Hebron and the revenge killing of Israelis by Palestinians, the international events which set former foes on the course of reconciliation — in the case of the PLO and Israel a course initiated by themselves — remain the same. Both leaderships have an enormous stake in success and their peoples in the hoped-for benefits of peace. The international community — states, organisations and business — has been pulled into the process so that sufficient interests might be harnessed to sustain momentum when difficulties between the parties arise. At the same time Israel and Palestinians know they have no practical alternative, and together with Arab leaders also know that their collective failure to see the process through, and the disappointed expectations this would play into the hands of the Islamic militants and augur a turbulent future.

On this analysis, it would seem fair tentatively to suggest that while the peace process will be subject to major setbacks and delays, the agreements so far reached rule out a return to the status quo ante, and that the qualitative change in the perceptions of Israel and its Arab adversaries that has taken place virtually rules out resort to war involving the use of weapons of mass destruction. Beyond this a healthy dose of caution is in order. There is no evidence to suggest that Israel has collectively reconciled themselves to living within the 1967 borders or that they are under any American pressure to do so. At the same time there is no prospect that a durable comprehensive settlement can be reached unless a just solution is found for the Palestinians. The time has come for the United States and others to be much more active in giving Palestinian and Israeli leaders the strength they need to carry on and in helping the parties satisfy themselves on the practicability and acceptability of a set of proposals that has the potential to meet Palestinian demands for independence and Israel's demand for security. For all the past momentum, Palestinian opposition to the peace is gaining and selling the Palestinians short now would be guaranteed to topple Yasser Arafat, undermine the moderate trend he represents and sow the seeds of a future Palestinian revolt.

The above is the second and last part of an article which was written before the signing of the self-rule accord between the PLO and Israel in Cairo Wednesday. The first part of the article, which is reprinted from the May edition of The World Today, appeared Monday.

An uncertain future for Indonesia

against the economically influential Chinese minority is deeply worrying.

Mr. Suharto has suggested before that he would retire, and then changed his mind. He is unlikely to do so again this time, except in dire circumstances. By 1998 he will be 76. More important, military leaders have given strong indications that they want him to go sooner rather than later. He could not be entirely sure of military support if he showed signs of still clinging to office.

He has not yet indicated his preferred successor. The jockeying for position is bound to intensify. B. J. Habibie, the minister for research and technology, is the closest confidant of Mr. Suharto in the cabinet. He has been playing a high-profile role for several years and has attracted many followers to his bandwagon while publicly denying that

he aspires to the presidency. However, he is not liked by the military.

It is almost certain that the next leader of Indonesia will be an army man. General Try Sutrisno, a former armed forces commander who serves as vice president, would probably take over the presidency if it were to become vacant for any reason before 1998. But General Try, although popular, may not be strong enough if there is a vigorous contest.

It is not clear who speaks on behalf of the armed forces these days. There is no longer a united military view on major policy issues, including the political succession. Since the departure last year of Benny Mardani, the powerful armed forces commander and defence minister, no one has exerted anything like the same influence in the security services.

General Mardani was increasingly at odds with President Suharto on several issues, mainly over the highly visible and contentious business interests of the Suharto family, many of whom members are in association with Chinese entrepreneurs. General Mardani may yet play a king-making role.

Mr. Suharto has concentrated enormous power in his own hands while carefully controlling factional and grass-roots politics. As a result, candidates for the succession will have to build up support bases within the state apparatus, including the armed forces, or among groups such as activist Muslims or nationalists, as a sign of their political strength. It will no longer suffice to have Mr. Suharto's backing.

Indonesia has become slightly more pluralistic in the last couple of years. Several Muslim groups have been allowed greater leeway and are developing high expectations of their future political influence. Greater freedom of expression has been permitted in the press, although still within tight limits. But if tighter social controls have to be imposed to guard against further anti-Chinese outbreaks, it is the Muslim groups, traditionally the most strongly anti-Chinese elements in the country, who are likely to be most antagonised.

Taiwan and South Korea have become democratic since the mid-1980s, but Indonesia is unlikely to take a similar course. The army shows no sign of being willing to give up much of its capacity to exercise tight social control. The political parties have little cohesion and shallow roots in society. The middle class is still small and weak, and its political loyalty

is divided. So much attention will be focused on the succession struggle over the next few years, with the political influence and perquisites of so many people depending on the outcome, that it is unlikely that will be given to the principles at stake in creating new or better institutions to ensure more responsible government. There is little prospect of a reformist coalition emerging in Indonesia to push for democratic change. Yet without such pressure, there is no chance of changing the personalised corrupt style of government. Instead, some form of authoritarian rule is likely to continue, with the armed forces calling the shots and the present government structures still essential in place.

The writer is professor emeritus at the Australian National University in Canberra and author of several books on Indonesia. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Features

By James Flannery
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The deep scars of apartheid bring bitter tears to black victims but the legacy of decades of blinkered racism also provokes shocked smiles from liberal South African whites and helps market traders calculate profits.

A black mother still grieves over the injustice of a case that made world headlines — a white farmer got a suspended jail term for the torture-killing of her husband over the deaths of two puppies.

White liberals, their feelings of guilt eased by South Africa's historic all-race elections on April 26-29, are snapping up books that recount some of the ironies of apartheid — high priests thought they had a hot line to God.

On the side of Mammon, a precious metals newsletter for businessmen seeks with a chilling graph to co-relate South Africa's political killings with platinum and gold prices.

Seven years ago black farm worker Eric Sambo, driving a tractor, accidentally ran over and killed two dogs belonging to his white employer, Jacob Vorster, in the northern Transvaal town of Louis Trichardt. Vorster and his neighbour Petrus Leonard beat and kicked Sambo unconscious. They left him overnight tied to a tree and resumed the punishment the next day, forcing other blacks to take part. The man bled to death.

Leonard was fined 500 rand (then \$240) for his part in the killing in September 1987. Vorster received a suspended five-year jail sentence and was ordered to pay the dead man's widow 120 rand (then \$55) a month for five years.

The judge said he took into account the embarrassment Vorster would suffer, and said another reason for not jailing him was that 44 black workers on his farm might lose their jobs.

This was white-ruled South Africa where courts often treated Europeans leniently even in cases of shocking brutality against blacks.

In the new South Africa, where racial reconciliation is the theme, Sambo's widow Sarah says of the man who escaped so lightly in court: "I cannot forgive him."

"For as long as I live the mere mention of that man's name will remind me of the pain I had to undergo because of my husband's death."

Sarah, 42, and her three children live in two mountain-side huts overlooking the fer-



ANC supporters celebrate their election victory (AFP photo)

Apartheid legacies — tears, jokes and profits

tile white farms of Lebuvu where she and her husband once worked.

"You cannot really know the suffering of farm labourers until you are on the farm," she told the Sowetan newspaper.

"Young white children used to call me 'kaffir' and shout at me." The word is the South African equivalent of "nigger."

But elsewhere, author Ben Macleman has struck a vein among liberal whites with a book, "apartheid, the Lighter Side" — a collection of true stories illustrating the crass stupidity or blatant injustice of blinkered racism.

An 80-year-old white man, in whose cupboard two Bantu

girls were found, appeared in a Bloemfontein court in 1970 on a charge of immorality across the racial line.

He denied guilt and said he had shut them in the cupboard "for fun". He was acquitted.

Or a 1966 decision by the South African National Council for the blind to reconstitute itself on an "apartheid" basis.

Or a riot policeman's suc-

cessful explanation in Port Elizabeth court in 1987 for shooting dead a black youth at a funeral. "I acted in self-defence," said Adjutant Officer J.J. Erasmus. "They were singing in their own language and this causes riots."

A different payoff line is carried by a newsletter for pre-

cious metals dealers which says: "The tripling of political killings since Mr. Mandela's release in February 1990 has seen platinum's (price) premium over gold shrink inexorably."

There follows a graph indicating that as political killings rise, platinum's price lead over gold falls, with the comment:

"Since this human tragedy reflects expectations suppressed by three quarters of a century of apartheid, and decades of tribal rivalry before that, it is unlikely to cease in the days before or after Nelson Mandela waves a presidential wave from the steps of Pretoria's new parliament."

Saleh: 'National Identity' is a political illusion

By Adnan Siddiqi

BOSTON — "Identity is an illusion politicians create to hold disparate reality together," according to one prominent writer in African and Arab literature. "Writers, by definition, do not accept ready-made formula... in fact our stock in trade is a lack of certainty."

The words are those of 60-year-old Tayeb Saleh, author of the novels "Season of Migration to the North" and "The Wedding of Zein," who spoke recently at Boston University as the guest of the Sudan Studies Association's Third International Meeting here. According to American University of Beirut scholar Mona Ayyubi (a conference participant), Tayeb Saleh ranks with Egypt's Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz among the "leading Arabic fiction writers of the 20th century."

National identity in the case of Sudan, with its multiple religions, languages, cultures and tribes, Mr. Saleh suggested, has been shaped not only by the "mischiefous designs" of nationalist politicians, but also by historical circumstance. "Imagine what it would be like," he told an amused audience of over 200, "if the French had defeated the British in the battle of Fashoda... Sudan would have had two identities, Southern Sudan would be a French colony, and Juba might now have its own 'Boulevard Charles de Gaulle.'"

"It could have been very different," he added wryly, "and we would have lived in it just the same."

What then is the true identity of Sudan? "I really don't know," Mr. Saleh replied to a questioner. "Like (Kenyan writer) Ngugi and (Nigeria's) Achébe, I am always exploring the meaning of identity... Countries — like life — are messy, and cannot be ordered beyond a certain point."

Although now somewhat removed from the four-decades-long conflict between North and South — he has been in exile in London since the 1989 coup in Khartoum — Mr. Saleh said he remains particularly concerned about the creation of false dichotomies by politicians and journalists in describing the war. The terms "Arab Muslim North" and "Christian South," he argued, "over-



Tayeb Saleh

emphasise only one part of reality... As a writer, I find these to be oversimplifications, useless and dangerous."

Besides the fact that there are significant Christian groups in the North and many Muslims in the South, the humanist argued, "there is no clear-cut thing as a Muslim or Arab or Negro. If someone only says 'I am a Muslim', I hope he understands what he means."

Comparing the ruling National Islamic Front in Khartoum and rebel groups in the South, Mr. Saleh said they have more in common than they admit publicly. The two elites in both parts of the country, he said, "went to the same English schools, speak the same language, and wear the same clothes... in fact they are essentially the same people. It baffles me therefore that they are so intent on proving themselves different."

In response to a question on possible solutions, Mr. Saleh said "one ought to look to the U.S. example... America is just as variant a mixture, yet it is united and trying to make diversity work. We (Sudanese) are not."

Among American literary figures, Mr. Saleh later told USIA in an interview,

replies in the negative. "In fact, we have not yet tasted a golden era in literature, or in anything." He said that the leadership in Sudan, even prior to the current regime, has "always obstructed" realistic fiction, but has failed to suppress it. He added that up-and-coming writers, such as Abdulla Ali Ishaq and Francis Deng, represent a pool of "great creative potential... and I am not finished yet either."

The African/Arab novelist, Mr. Saleh predicts, is on the verge of attracting wide readership in the West, in the manner that translated Latin American writers like Borges and Marquez captured the imagination in the 1980s. "It may be the next wave," he said hopefully, "because I have a feeling that the novel in America and Europe has become too incestuous, (too) concerned with little issues, with some exceptions."

"In the Third World, the novel is doing what it has been invented to do — to discuss the big issues."

Commenting on the difficulties faced in the Islamic World case, Mr. Saleh said that Muslim writers such as Naguib Mahfouz and himself "have for a very long time been challenging certain taboos" and been banned for doing so. "I don't really know what is behind the over-dramatisation in the West of the works of Salman Rushdie. There is no denying he is a very talented writer, but this particular novel ('The Satanic Verses') is a boring novel... a bad work."

"I have a suspicion that this kind of false celebration is linked with false notions of Arabs and Muslims and the Third World in general," Mr. Saleh added. "People are ignorant, and writers like that may merely be confirming these prejudices, these pre-conceived ideas."

On the other hand, Mr. Rushdie's right to publish, according to Mr. Saleh, is indisputable. "I contributed to a book, published in French, in defence of Salman Rushdie," along with other mainly Arab and Muslim writers defending his right to express himself, he told USIA. "Practically everybody said, 'Yes, we defend his right to speak and we do not agree that he should have a sentence passed on him'; Mr. Saleh said.

On Serb-Croat front, a woman raises chickens, and the dogs

By Dilip Ganguly
The Associated Press

VINKOVCI, Croatia — As dusk falls on the uneasy front line outside her door, Vanka Matosevic counts her chickens, marshals her dog and two cats into her bedroom, says a prayer and goes to bed.

The war to the south in Bosnia is the focus of world attention these days. But things hardly have been settled here in neighbouring Croatia, where Serbs and Croats fought a six-month war in 1991 that preceded the Bosnian conflict.

"I remember the days very well," says Ms. Matosevic, patting her dog and two cats, her only regular companions.

"It was July 23, 1991, when my house took several direct hits, but I was not afraid. A day later Croat soldiers came and told me they were retreating. Even then I stayed back, but the night was horrible and I fled later on my bicycle."

The fighting ended in January 1992, but a third of the country still is held by Serbs. Each battery-breaker earns an average of 20 taka (\$0.50 U.S. cents) a day or an annual \$182.50.

That is above Bangladesh's per capita income of \$120, but at a high cost.

"My father died when I was eight. I remember he died one morning of severe chest pain," he said. "People said the dust was the killer."

Tajuddin's mother Saleha Begum, 38, sadly recalls: "I was young and just newly married when I migrated to Dhaka from a distant village trying to find some employment."

"I considered myself lucky when I was drafted into the army of battery breakers," she said.

Ms. Begum gave birth to five children in this compound where they have been provided with a shanty. Much of the place is buried under a thick layer of battery dust accumulated over years of production.

The battery breakers say they burn the zinc from the cells to make a liquid and

cans for scraps.

The doors and walls of Ms. Matosevic's home are scarred with bullet holes like the face of a small post victim. Of the roof and one of the rooms took direct hits and caved in.

Most people did not return to this neighbourhood after the fighting that broke out when Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia.

"We hold regular meetings to clear any suspicion or doubt between the two parties," said Brig. Gen. Willy Vandyc of Belgium, the sector commander.

The Mirkovci-Vinkovci front is in one of four so-called U.N. protection areas set up under the 1992 truce in parts of Croatia seized by Serbs.

Croatia insists it will get the land back some day, but Serbs say they will never submit to rule from Zagreb.

Ms. Matosevic said she does not believe peace will return permanently to Vinkovci, a town of 30,000 people where hardly a building escaped damage in 1991.

The battery breakers say they burn the zinc from the cells to make a liquid and



LITTLE TO LOOK FOR: Poverty-stricken Bangladeshis wait for help after one of the many natural catastrophes that hit the country (File photo)

Poverty pushes Bangladeshis to dangerous profession

then recompress it into bars. Majib, 45, a zinc and plastic burner, said his employer, who uses small children to collect used batteries, takes the lion's share of the money from sale of zinc bars to the city's scrap market.

The scrap dealers sell the zinc bars to the aluminum industries.

Tajuddin said the paste of manganese and carbon is also sold to unauthorised "medicine manufacturers" who use them for making skin ointments and tooth powders.

They sell it in open markets fully knowing that their products can harm, even kill, the users, one health official in Dhaka said.

"They do a booming business among the poor and often keep the unfriendly law enforcers off by paying a bribe," he added.

Experts say long-time exposure to chemicals like manganese and inhalation of fumes from the burning of battery waste damaged kidneys and lungs, weakens bones and contributes to Par-

kinson's disease.

"Using manganese and carbon-made tooth powder or paste could be another deadly hazard for a vast multitude of (the) population," said one of Bangladesh's leading dentists, Arup Ratan Chowdhury.

Though no detailed survey has yet been conducted on the use of these extremely hazardous ointments it is feared 80 per cent of the skin disease patients apply "cheaply available cures" which cause skin ulcers and even cancer, he said.

Skull specialist Reza Bin Zaid said in Bangladesh,

where 30 per cent of the 110 million population have some kind of skin disorder, the use of carbon and manganese paste for curing skin disease was a serious threat to public health.

There are at least 1,000 dry cell breaking centres across the country and the number is rising because of growing demands for zinc, plastic and carbon.

Health ministry sources said they were aware of the illegal dry cell industry. They did not explain why the government has not tried to stop it.

African Development Bank says CFA change was missed chance

NAIROBI (R) — The recent 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc should help the flagging economies of the franc zone, but the African Development Bank (AFDB) said Monday that the change may not have gone far enough.

In a special section of its 1994 development report, published ahead of its annual meeting here this week, the AFDB said "the recent opportunity for change was not fully seized" since the CFA franc was not allowed to float freely.

The exchange rate remains fixed to the French franc, albeit at 100 CFA francs to one French franc, against the 50 to

one parity that ruled from 1948 until January this year.

"An important option that was not exercised could have called for the floating of the CFA with a guarantee of convertibility, led by France," the AFDB said.

However, the bank came out against any break-up of the franc zone, which groups 13 African countries, mostly former French colonies, in two monetary zones, plus the Comoros Islands, whose CFA franc was devalued by 33 per cent.

Notwithstanding its shortcomings, the CFA zone continues to represent an important lesson in monetary coop-

eration in Africa," the AFDB said.

Dismantling it would be counter-productive. "Indeed, it may be more useful to ... consolidate the two CFA zones into a single union, governed by a single or coordinated monetary policy."

The AFDB said the devaluation was overdue, and "the erstwhile unwillingness to devalue," had stalled the adjustment process in the Francophone African countries.

Since 1986, per capita income in these countries had declined by about 40 per cent — "a decline which is comparable in global terms only to

that currently being experienced in the former Soviet Union.

Devaluation, accompanied by appropriate incentive measures, "should begin to restore investor confidence, so as to resuscitate dormant industries and stimulate new ones," the AFDB said.

Markets in rubber, cut flowers, vegetables and leather goods could be exploited, it said, and tourism might flourish again.

Not least, the CFA incomes of coffee- and cacao-producers would increase, enabling them to diversify into a wider range of products, it added.

S Arabia oil industry — building muscle

RAS TANURAH, Saudi Arabia (R) — Saudi Arabia says it is putting finishing touches to a programme that has restored its crude oil output capacity to a huge 10 million barrels daily.

It will give the world a cushion of spare supply against any disruption elsewhere, say Saudi industry officials.

They explain that the kingdom, the biggest oil producer, does not for the present envisage actually pumping more than around 8.0 million barrels — already a third of all the output of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Boasting the world's biggest oil reserves, it has maintained production at about this level since it almost doubled output in 1990 to meet a shortage caused by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Western diplomats in the kingdom also say they believe the Saudis are reaching their 10-million capacity target, after expenditure since 1988 reckoned to have been some \$15 billion.

As the Saudis look to new challenges, however, a 20 per cent drop in crude oil prices has now created a need for spending restraint at Saudi Aramco, the giant state concern that operates the petroleum industry.

Oil Minister Hisham Nazer looks for "a much more efficient industry, basically reduc-

ing costs and increasing income."

David Bosch of Aramco's planning and policy staff told visiting reporters recently that the company is "trying to defer or limit expenditure... in the current oil price arena."

A new field in the Rub Al Khali (empty quarter) desert may not be developed just yet. And plans to upgrade four Saudi Aramco-owned refineries are being scaled back or reviewed.

Yet internal demand for both gasoline and diesel is booming. Gasoline sells at only 33 U.S. cents a gallon. Diesel prices are also kept low to help Saudi Arabian farmers who grow wheat for export on irrigated tracts of desert.

Saudi fuel is so cheap it is smuggled — on donkeys — to Yemen. Bahrainis drive across a causeway to fill their tanks.

Bids are being sought for a partial upgrade of Aramco's Ras Tanurah refinery to cost \$1.7 billion. But no decision has been taken on whether to replace a distillation unit there that processed 280,000 barrels daily but caught fire in 1990.

Officials stress that policy is reviewed every six months and new projects may be announced sooner than expected, although financial considerations will be taken into account.

The Saudis are not now actually net importers of geo-

logical, the officials say. They have, however, arranged to buy some at world prices from the export entitlements of Western oil firms that operate three other refineries at 50-50 joint ventures.

Internal demand for natural gas may also press near present supply capacity, at least in summer when air conditioners go flat out. Gas is burned by electricity generating utilities. Mr. Bosch saw limits "on how much gas we can process right now."

Aramco's domestic gas customers also include factories that supply 5.0 per cent of all world petrochemicals. They too pay low prices and these may fail to generate the revenue to invest in more gas-gathering capacity.

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Indian minister defends GATT pact

NEW DELHI (AFP) — India has no alternative but to stay within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) system to ward off economic "blackmail" by more powerful trading nations, the finance

minister said Monday.

"We must realise that we are living in a world of unequal political and economic power structure," Manmohan Singh said in a plain-speaking speech in response to opposition de-

mands that India pull out of GATT.

"And, under the umbrella of GATT which ensures free, non-discriminatory and equitable trade, India can effectively deal with the powerful de-

veloped countries," the minister told a conference.

His defence of the multilateral trade system came amid a continuing political storm over India's signing the GATT accord in Morocco.

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DAY, MAY 10, 1994
record
British
borrowing
points to
urdy
recovery

Economy

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME IN JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGING PRICE
JORDAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	94,980	180.500	181.000	+1.000
HOUSING BANK CENTER JORDAN - HSB	69,450	181.000	181.000	0.000
UNIFIED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY	04/05/1994			
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	94,980	180.500	181.000	+1.000
JORDAN AGRIC. BANK	77,730	21.200	21.300	+1.00
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	6,797	4.150	4.150	0.000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	11,120	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	49,812	3.160	3.160	0.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	8,763	5.910	5.950	+0.040
JORDAN SECURITY BANK	18,120	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	17,912	2.000	2.000	0.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	15,620	4.150	4.150	0.000
JORDAN BANK FOR ENVIRONMENT	26,620	6.000	6.100	+0.100
JORDAN BANK FOR ENVIRONMENT	90,923	1.900	1.900	0.000
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	785	4.550	4.550	0.000
JORDAN LIFE & CASUALTY INSURANCE	5,713	3.020	3.040	+0.020
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	2,895	3.150	3.160	+0.010
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	10,140	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN AGRICULTURE HOLDINGS LTD	2,484	7.050	7.050	0.000
JORDAN AGRICULTURE HOLDINGS LTD	4,485	4.750	4.820	+0.070
JORDAN PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS	6,644	7.650	7.650	0.000
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	2,144	1.100	1.100	0.000
PEACE ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENT LEASING	2,344	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CO.	1,452	1.200	1.200	0.000
JORDAN FRESH FARMERS / ALADIN	2,973	1.282	1.280	-0.020
JORDAN FRESH FARMERS / ALADIN	21,120	1.200	1.200	0.000
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES IMPORTERS	26,232	2.000	2.000	0.000
THE JORDAN CIGARETTE FACTORY	2,000	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS	508	2.670	2.650	-0.020
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	3,182	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	26,910	12.250	12.400	+0.150
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	65,900	6.000	6.000	0.000
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	4,238	4.150	4.050	-0.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	20,725	17.000	17.200	+0.200
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	8,825	2.700	2.700	0.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	239,230	18.000	18.000	0.000
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	17,200	1.100	1.100	0.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	29,270	1.150	1.140	-0.010
JORDAN PETROLEUM & TRADING	37	0.470	0.460	-0.010
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS	7,454	2.270	2.060	-0.170
ALADIN INDUSTRIES	950	6.500	6.400	-0.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	7,037	0.360	0.340	-0.020
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION	1,245	1.800	1.800	0.000
ANADOLU CENTER FOR PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS	10,720	0.820	0.840	+0.020
PAINTER INVESTMENT	59,197	2.980	2.920	-0.060
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES				
GRAND TOTAL	1,479,136			
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	132,000			
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	132,000			

Financial Markets JORDAN TIMES
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 6/5/1994	Tokyo Close Date: 9/5/1994
Sterling Pound	1.4930	1.4903
Deutsche Mark	1.6625	1.6620
Swiss Franc	1.4140	1.4150
French Franc	5.7005	5.6950*
Japanese Yen	102.47	102.41
European Currency Unit	1.1580	1.1593**
U.S. DOLLAR		
* European Opening & 8:00 a.m. CEST		
** Interbank mid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.		

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 9/5/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4,0000	4,4400	4,7500	5,2500
Sterling Pound	4,8800	5,0000	4,6000	5,5000
Deutsche Mark	5,0000	4,8800	4,8100	4,8100
Swiss Franc	3,7500	3,7500	3,7500	3,7500
French Franc	5,6500	5,5000	5,3800	5,3800
Japanese Yen	2,0000	2,0600	2,1900	2,3800
European Currency Unit	5,7500	5,5000	5,5000	5,6200

Interbank mid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 9/5/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	381.30	7.60	Silver	5.40	0.122

* 24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 9/5/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6900	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0403	1.0455
Deutsche Mark	0.4191	0.4212
Swiss Franc	0.4926	0.4951
French Franc	0.1223	0.1229
Japanese Yen	0.6799	0.6833
Dutch Guilder	0.3734	0.3755
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira*	0.0437	0.0439
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 9/5/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8360	1.8480
Lebanese Lira*	0.040230	0.041660
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1880
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3250	2.3550
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1904
Egyptian Pound	0.1930	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7940	1.8000
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1904
Greek Drachma*	0.2635	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.2875	1.3475

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish kronas	Norwegian kronas	Danish crowns
1.3798/08											
1.6578/88											
1.8606/16											
1.4152/42											
34.10/14											
5.6790/40											
158.40/9											
102.52/62											
7.6600/00											
7.1890/40											
6.4830/80											
1.4948/58											
One sterling			</td								



**Actor
George
Peppard
dies at 65**

LOS ANGELES (R) — George Peppard, who starred as a romantic leading man in the film classic *Breakfast At Tiffany's* but may be best remembered as a mercenary in the hit TV series *The A-Team*, has died of pneumonia. He was 65.

Peppard, once a two-pack-a-day smoker, died Sunday night after suffering "respiratory complications" at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Centre, hospital officials said. He was admitted last week with breathing problems.

Peppard had quit smoking in 1992 when doctors removed a cancerous tumour from his right lung he had been in remission.

In a career spanning more than three decades, the tall, silver-haired actor appeared in 29 films, playing everything from a cool-headed detective to a dashing flying ace. He often lamented being typecast as tough, unfeeling character.

Sat among the younger generation, Peppard is best known as Colonel John Hannibal Smith, fearless leader of the A-Team, a band of do-good mercenaries who wreaked more carnage in prime-time than any series during their run in the 1980s.

Born in Detroit the son of a building contractor and an opera singer, Peppard worked at odd jobs on Wall Street and drove a taxi so he could afford to pay for lessons in "method acting" from legendary acting teacher Lee Strasberg.

He was so confident of immediate success that he demanded an unlisted telephone number, but he had to reply mostly on bit parts until he began receiving bigger roles in television dramas and on Broadway.

Peppard made his film debut in *The Strange One* in 1957 and then appeared in *Pork Chop Hill* in 1958 and *Home From The Hill* in 1960.

But his big break came when he was cast opposite Audrey Hepburn in Blake Edwards' 1961 classic *Breakfast At Tiffany's*, playing the wealthy charmer who sweeps a small-town girl off her feet on her trip to New York.

As his film career waned in the 1970s, Peppard returned to television.

He starred in the NBC detective show *Banacek* from 1972 to 1974 and the medical drama *Doctors' Hospital* from 1975 to 1976.

Only 16 days into filming the pilot for *Dynasty*, which would go on to become one of television's biggest hits, Peppard was replaced by Jon Forsythe in the role of multimillionaire Blake Carrington. He was rumoured to have had creative differences with the series' producers.

Just when he thought he would end up on the dinner-theatre circuit, Peppard was offered what he called "one of the best roles of my career" — commanding the A-Team.

NBC introduced *The A-Team* in 1983 and it quickly became the network's most popular series of the season.

But it was slammed by the critics and the National Coalition on Television Violence for what they said was a display of mayhem unmatched by any other prime-time series — 34 acts of violence per hour.

but the series, which also starred jewelry-decked action hero Mr. T, was a huge success with viewers. It stayed on the air until 1986 and remains popular in syndication from a heavy machine gun.

"What matters is what the show, as an excuse in escapism and entertainment, means in terms of service to people," Peppard once said in defence of the series.

Among his other film credits are *How The West Was Won*, *The Carpetbaggers*, *Operation Crossbow*, *The Blue Max*, *House Of Cards*, *The Executioner*, *Dannation Alley* and *Five Days From Home*, which he also directed.

U.N.: Serb arms still present in Gorazde

SARAJEVO (R) — The commander of United Nations troops in Gorazde said Monday he believed the Serbs still had heavy weapons within the 20-kilometre weapons exclusion zone around the Bosnian Muslim town, in defiance of a NATO ultimatum.

"I am quite certain that there are still heavy weapons being held within the zone," he said by radio link from Gorazde.

A three-week Serb assault on the town ended last month after NATO threatened the Serbs with air strikes.

Under the agreement ending the fighting, the Serbs were meant to pull all their forces back from a three-kilometre zone around the town and remove all their heavy weapons from the 20-kilometre zone or face air strikes.

The U.N. commander in Gorazde, Lieutenant-Colonel David Santa-Olalla, said the Serbs still had between 100 and 150 police in the three-kilometre zone.

U.N. officials say the police are in fact soldiers who have just changed their uniforms.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Eric Chaperon said Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had assured the U.N.'s head of civil affairs Sergio Vieira De Mello at the weekend that the troops would

pull out of the Muslim enclave but nothing happened.

"We are still waiting for the movement," Maj. Chaperon said.

He said the Serb police, known as Militsa, were actually soldiers who had changed their green uniforms for blue and by their presence in the zone were in breach of the terms of the Gorazde ceasefire agreement.

"These militia are not in fact real policemen," Maj. Chaperon said.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government has refused to restart peace negotiations with the Serbs until they fully comply with the NATO ultimatum for them to withdraw.

Meanwhile, U.N. forces in the Bosnian capital have failed to locate a Bosnian Serb tank secreted in a Sarajevo suburb since late Friday, Maj. Chaperon said Monday.

U.N. military observers continued to patrol the Grbavica sector, and if the tank was found UNPROFOR would go and fetch it, Maj. Chaperon said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky will meet several politicians before he leaves Tuesday. They include Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

In a separate development, Croat and Muslim negotiators Monday began a third round of U.S.-brokered talks on setting up a Bosnian Federation and seemed to be heading for agreement.

The tank, probably a T-34, disappeared late Friday while being transported on a truck from Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale in violation of the 20-kilometre (12.5-mile) exclu-

sion zone ordered by NATO to bar heavy weaponry around Sarajevo.

Maj. Chaperon reported rising tension at Mostar in the south, and some mortar fire at Celic and Visoko in the northeast.

Russian nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky said Sunday that if Russia was asked it could send enough troops to restore order in the Balkans in a month.

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Angola rebels lose provincial capital

LISBON (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA has acknowledged the loss after fierce fighting of Ndalatando, a provincial capital in northwestern Angola, but it played down the strategic importance of the battle.

UNITA said in a statement faxed to Reuters from Washington at the weekend that the capital of Cuanza-North province, 250 kilometres east of Luanda, fell to government forces last Wednesday. But it quoted UNITA's representative in the United

States, Jardim Muckalia, as saying: "Towns have changed hands often in the course of fighting between the two sides... neither side can win a military victory."

"The government's taking of Ndalatando does not change the fact that the Angolan conflict can be resolved at the negotiating table," Mr. Muckalia said.

UNITA radio reported Sunday that heavy clashes were still taking place in and around Ndalatando, which govern-

ment radio said was in army hands.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) has been fighting a bush war since independence from Portugal in 1975. A 1991 peace agreement fell apart after UNITA rejected its defeat in U.N.-supervised elections a year later.

The United Nations has been mediating fresh peace talks between UNITA and the government in Lusaka since last November.

Rwandan rebels push for Kigali in heavy fighting

NAIROBI (AP) — Rebels stepped up their push for the Rwandan capital Monday, pounding government positions near the airport and on the eastern side of Kigali with an intense barrage of heavy artillery and mortar fire.

One round exploded on the airport tarmac, forcing U.N. officials to turn back a relief flight en route from Nairobi and close the airport, said U.N. spokesman Abdul Kabia in Kigali.

Intense fighting also was reported near Ruhengeri in the northwest, where U.N. officials say the rebels are advancing despite stiff resistance from government forces.

Maj. Gen. Paul Kagame, chairman of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), said earlier that the lull in fighting around Kigali was to give the rebels time to consolidate their positions near Ruhengeri, about 75 kilometres from Kigali.

The fighting between the majority Hutu, who dominate the army and the government, and the minority Tutsis, who lead the rebel movement, began after the president died in

a plane crash in Kigali on April 6. The president of neighbouring Burundi also died in the crash. Both men were Hutus.

In the past month, some 100,000 to 200,000 people have been killed, and 1.3 million have fled their homes, according to the United Nations and aid agencies. About 300,000 have fled to four neighbouring countries.

Rebel guns Monday morning shattered the eerie calm that had descended on the capital Sunday after five days of intense fighting that saw the rebels make substantial gains in Kigali.

"They are using very, very heavy artillery," said Mr. Kabia. "The blasts shake all the buildings around where they hit."

Besides closing the airport, the shelling also has disrupted the delivery of food to thousands of displaced people under U.N. protection in the capital.

Mr. Kabia said the rebels contend that ethnic massacres of Tutsi civilians are continuing in the countryside in parts of southern Rwanda still controlled by the government.

However, he said, U.N. observers cannot get access to the areas and cannot confirm.

Pyongyang accuses Seoul over weapons 'provocation'

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea Monday accused the South Korean authorities of carrying out "a grave military provocation" by sending heavy guns and soldiers into the buffer zone between the rivals.

The official Korean central news agency (KCNA) said a South Korean armoured vehicle had entered the demilitarized zone Sunday and its gun was in a firing position facing North.

The agency added, in a despatch monitored in Tokyo, that on May 1, May 3 and May 4, recoilless guns and heavy machine guns were set up.

It accused the South Korean army of embarking on "a war frenzy" on May 5 by firing 70 rounds of ammunition from a heavy machine gun.

The following day "hundreds of armed bandits" took part in a "frantic war exercise against the North."

Meanwhile, China has assured South Korea and the United States that it would take "resolute measures" against North Korea if it broke its pledge not to develop nuclear arms, the Mainichi newspaper reported Monday.

The newspaper, quoting a senior U.S. official, said the no-bomb pledge had been made by North Korean President Kim Il-Sung when he met with China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping during a visit to China in October 1991.

The pledge has been made known by a Chinese leader to South Korean President Kim Young-Sam and Robert Gallo, the U.S. assistant secretary for political and military affairs, when they visited Beijing recently, the U.S. official said.

In a separate development, South Korea appealed Monday to North Korea to resume stalled Red Cross talks on arranging reunions of families separated since the Korean War.

The appeal came in an address by Kang Young-Hoon, president of the South Korean Red Cross, at a ceremony marking "World Red Cross Day."

Mr. Kang said North Korea should unconditionally resume talks to allow exchanges of hometown visits by elderly parents across the heavily fortified border.

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Cuban pilot diverts plane to Miami

MIAMI (R) — A Cuban commercial airline pilot flying 16 tourists to the Bahamas locked himself in the cockpit and diverted the plane to Miami, where the pilot asked for political asylum Sunday, federal agents said.

The Cuban airliner landed about 5:15 p.m. est (2115 GMT) at Miami International Airport, the latest in a string of Cuban-owned military and commercial aircraft that have fled to Florida in recent years.

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Perez Balladares declares victory in Panama

PANAMA CITY (R) — Wealthy businessman Ernesto Perez Balladares was headed for victory in Panama's presidential elections Sunday in a stunning comeback for his party, ousted from power by the 1989 U.S. invasion.

"I'm not accepting anything until we have the full results," Mr. Blades, best known to American audiences through his role in the Hollywood film *The Milagro Beanfield War*, told his disappointed supporters.

Police said the general election, the first since the U.S. invasion and the freest in nearly three decades, was not marked by the turmoil that has characterized previous electoral contests in this Central American country.

"The results we've received signify we've won the elections of 1994," Mr. Perez Balladares said.

The widow of three-time Panamanian President Arnulfo Arias, Mirka Moscoso De Gruber, of the ruling Alianza Democrática had 27.9 per cent of the vote, upsetting political newcomer and singer and actor Ruben Blades who trailed in third place.

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"The results we've received signify we've won

Amman to seek clarifications

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Qouriea, aware of the Jordanian fears, sought to dispel them by making statements at the time denying that the agreement annulled the Jordan-PLO economic agreement.

"It looks like the Palestinians kept us at bay with an unbinding economic agreement until they went and strengthened their hand with the Israel-PLO Paris agreement," economist Fahed Fanek said.

"They feel that they have a stronger bargaining position with this Paris agreement," he said, adding that Jordan "now has the choice of taking it or leaving it."

Another economist, who asked he not be named, said that the PLO move to force Jordan's hand with the Paris agreement and asking Jordan to agree to a "compatible" agreement with it "is an attempt to force us into Benelux-type arrangements."

Benelux, a 1960 agreement creating economic integration between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, is an idea that was floated as an option for a similar arrangement between Jordan, Palestinian territories and Israel.

The Palestinian negotiator is trying to make the Jordanian decisionmaker consider the idea of economic integration similar to Benelux in terms of making the Jordan-PLO agreement compatible with the Israel-PLO agreement," the economist said.

"It is very clear that the PLO-Israel agreement should

not be used as a pressure card against Jordan," he said.

The Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee, apparently in response to the fears created by the Paris agreement in economic circles in Jordan, has requested copies of both the Israel-PLO economic agreement and the Jordan-PLO agreement as well as the Oslo and Cairo agreements.

Ali Abu Ragheb, head of the Finance Committee, told the Jordan Times Monday that this request came to "hold the proper discussions with the government and concerned officials and draw a policy that will reflect constructively on the Jordanian and the Palestinian people."

"There is fear that the Jordan-PLO agreement has become a subsidiary agreement to the PLO-Israel agreement," Mr. Abu Ragheb said. "When this appears to be the case, it can only draw suspicion and depression in economic circles," he added.

Mr. Abu Ragheb agreed with Jordanian officials that "proper elaboration of what happened in Paris is needed." Otherwise, he added, "Jordan's mixed economy can only suffer and this will reflect negatively on the people both Palestinian and Jordanian."

"As representatives of the people we cannot sit back and watch," he said, making an appeal that the interest of the people be dealt with "the highest and utmost responsibility and patriotism."

"Otherwise it will reflect negatively on both sides," he said.

U.S. 'fine tuning' almost over

(Continued from page 1)

in light of Jordan's provision of an alternative to the sea-inspection.

The Lower House of Parliament Monday praised what it called the "belated" but "positive" French decision, expressing hope that other countries would follow suit, end the siege on the Red Sea port and compensate the Kingdom for the losses it has incurred from it.

"The (French decision) reflects France's awareness of the correctness of Jordan's policies and the fairness of its demands."

Aqaba Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti said the U.S. decision to end the siege on Aqaba is "a victory for the justness of the

Jordanian demand over the logic of power which was exercised over it."

Mr. Kabariti said the lifting of the siege should be followed by more steps to improve the economic situation in the country because "a stable, moderate and strong Jordan will strengthen the cause of stability in the whole region."

Mr. Kabariti called on the United States to take concrete steps towards realising President Bill Clinton's promise to help write off some of Jordan's foreign debts, hoping the decision to end the sanctions would constitute a first step towards addressing the economic woes of the Kingdom, which, he said, has been in the forefront of forces for moderation in the region.

Israelis clash with waiting crowd

(Continued from page 1)

said. Another three were wounded in clashes at Burj refugee camp, witnesses said.

The road north from the border was lined with Palestinians queuing for a sight of the vanguard of a 9,000-strong force to maintain order under self-rule as the Israelis redeploy after 27 years of occupation.

PLO officials said 300 men would be in the first contingent who would move into former Israeli bases as the handing over of authority got underway according to the Gaza-Jericho self-rule accord which was signed last Wednesday.

A dozen buses festooned with Palestinian colours were lined up waiting to transport the newcomers.

Correspondents waiting at the border saw several dozen walkie-talkie radios carried through and loaded into a Palestinian car.

A few hundred more policemen were expected to pass through Rafah on Wednesday.

Arafat searches for cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

line Mr. Arafat set during his private talks with Mr. Rabin in Cairo last week to inform him on the composition of the PNA, a senior PLO official said.

Mr. Arafat chaired several PLO Executive Committee

meetings last week, the last of which was on Sunday, to name the PNA, but failed to reach a final decision.

He left Tunis on Sunday night to attend South African President Nelson Mandela's inauguration. He is due back on Wednesday.

PLO: Amman accord intact

(Continued from page 1)

The PLO-Israel economic agreement stated that economic cooperation between the two sides "will be governed in various economic spheres by the principles of mutual respect for each other's economic interests, reciprocity, equity and fairness."

PLO officials said the accord gives the PNA the right to exercise its own economic decisions in accordance with its own priorities. At the same time, it recognises the Palestinians' economic ties with other markets, primarily Jordan.

Mr. Huleileh said the PNA would have all powers and responsibilities in the sphere of import and customs policy. The Palestinians will be able to import in quantities that would satisfy the Palestinian market needs.

"We have extracted achievements such as setting up of our own customs lists where we would independently determine rates of customs, purchase tax, levies, excises and other charges, the regulation of licensing requirements and of standards," he said.

Palestinians, he said, succeeded in getting Israel to agree to Palestinian imports of 500 to 800 products primarily from Jordan as well as from other Arab and Muslim states despite the Arab boycott of Israel.

"During the past three months in the Paris talks, we were negotiating with the Israelis on a list of products to import which Jordan presented to us, and the annexes of the accord includes Jordanian official papers with items listed by Jordan," Huleileh said.

He said the value of materials produced in Jordan, plus the direct processing costs, should not fall short of 30 percent of the export value of the goods.

One of the most important Palestinian achievements was in the monetary and financial sector, he said.

"We have succeeded in getting Israel to accept the establishment of a Palestinian

required to comply with the general rules and regulations of the PMA concerning foreign banks, he said.

Some Jordanian bank branches which were closed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war have already opened in the West Bank in line with a Jordanian-Israeli accord. When Jordan initialised the memorandum of understanding with Israel concerning the reopening of bank branches in the West Bank, the PLO thought Jordan neglected the Palestinian authority in the occupied territories and bypassed the PLO as the political power there, Palestinian officers say. Now, Palestinians expect Jordanian bank branches, coming under Palestinian jurisdiction, to relocate branches with the PMA and to comply with its regulations.

In the PLO-Israel accord, Israel and the PLO would continue to discuss the possibility of introducing mutually agreed Palestinian currency or temporary alternative currency arrangements for the Palestinian authority.

Since the Jordan-PLO accord stated that the Jordanian dinar will continue to be used in Palestine until the Palestinian currency is issued, in addition to the utilisation of other international and Arab currencies, this should be a point to be discussed with Jordan, Mr. Huleileh said.

Some Jordanian officials interpreted this article as meaning that the dinar would continue to be the only major legal tender in the occupied territories, and not to be used alongside the Israeli shekel, but PLO officials said when they drafted the Jordan-PLO accord, they considered the shekel as an international currency that was widely used in the territories, and since their dealings with Israelis were in shekels, it was not possible to consider the dinar the only legal tender.

"We are still not sovereign, and Jordan knows that quite well. What we achieved in the PLO-Israeli economic accord were the first steps towards separation," Mr. Huleileh said.

A senior PLO official said that Jordan wanted Palesti-

nians to import Jordanian goods worth \$300 million. "The total value of our exports to the outside world, Jordan included, is \$350 million and if we import goods worth \$300 million from Jordan, what economic benefits would we reap? We would not be able to improve our economy nor make the balance."

The current list of goods to be imported from Jordan, he said, offsets and hurts Israeli exports to the Palestinian market.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, said that Jordan and the Palestinian entity could work together to enhance the interests of both sides.

"Our work should be compatible, and Jordan must deal with Palestinians on the basis of mutual respect, equity and in ways which would achieve interests of both sides," he said.

"We have started the process of breaking economic ties with Israel, and we wish to weave closer economic links with Jordan, but not on the basis of the interests of one party or the domination of the stronger economy. Instead the relationship should be one of compatibility," he said.

In Tuesday's economic negotiations, Palestinians would want answers to queries such as:

— Would Jordan comply with the PMA's regulations and policies concerning reopening Jordanian bank branches in territories under Palestinian jurisdiction?

— Would Jordan set a mechanism, as Israel did, to convert the dinar into foreign currency?

— How would Jordan react if Palestinians decided to use the U.S. dollar as the legal tender in the Palestinian territories?

— If Palestinians received financial aid in foreign currency through Jordanian banks, would the Kingdom give Palestinians these funds in hard currency or convert it to dinars, taking into consideration that Israel accepted to transfer such aid in hard currency to Palestinians?

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يوم الجمعة 13/5/1994

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النهاية: خربة ابناه سعد ابو جابر / الياضدة

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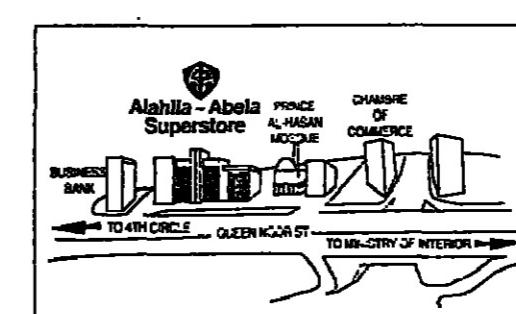
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran to deport whipped U.S. woman

TEHRAN (AFP) — An American woman whipped in Iran for "looking drunk" in public is to be deported after all, a Tehran newspaper said Monday. Mary Jones, 35, was picked up two weeks ago in northern Tehran allegedly in a drunken state. She was given 80 lashes of the whip after being found guilty in a court of "promoting corruption." Resalat daily said Ms. Jones, said to be from Texas, was presently held at the Interior Ministry awaiting deportation. The report came after another day, Kayhan, said Sunday that Ms. Jones, here since 1983, had said she would not leave because she married in Iran and had Iranian citizenship. It added that the Interior Ministry had confirmed Ms. Jones' Iranian citizenship, "even though she was born in the United States." On Saturday, Kayhan charged that Ms. Jones came to Iran with "the aim of corrupting the young" and accused her of promoting prostitution. According to newspapers here, Ms. Jones had two children but was now divorced. She was said to be working as an assistant film director.

Two wounded in Egyptian gunfight

ASSUIT (AP) — Gunmen ambushed two policemen walking to work in southern Egypt on Monday, and two bystanders were seriously wounded in an ensuing gunfight, authorities said. Three assailants were described as men in their early 20s wearing "European clothes." They escaped on foot. The shootout occurred in Sifra, the scene of previous extremist attacks on police and a Nile tourist boat in troubled Assuit province. Sifra is south of the city of Assuit, the provincial capital, which is 300 kilometres south of Cairo. Security officers said the policemen returned the fire. The bystanders, Ernest Batarus, 48, and Fuad Zakaria, 38, were reported wounded as they tried to help the policemen. The men were listed in critical condition at Sifra hospital. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But the Assuit area is a centre of activity by radical groups in a violent campaign to replace Egypt's largely secular government with a fundamentalist Islamic one.

Oldest paved road discovered in Egypt

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Two U.S. geologists have accidentally discovered a 4,600-year-old paved in Egypt, making it the world's oldest, U.S. newspapers said. Thomas Brown and James Harrell of the University of Toledo will report their discovery Friday at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, according to the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times. About 12 kilometres long and two metres wide, the road linked a basalt quarry in the desert to waterways that carried basalt blocks down the Nile to sites of ancient monuments. Made of sandstone and limestone, the road was discovered in the Fayoum Depression about 72 kilometres southwest of Cairo while the geologists were mapping the area. Although it now appears to go nowhere in the desert, the road led to a quarry 20 metres above sea level on Lake Moeris, whose waters were fed by the Nile. Birka Qarun, another lake, is now at the bottom of the depression about 50 metres below sea level, an indication in the change of climate conditions in the region.

Dissidents arrested in Beijing, Shanghai

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese police have arrested four more dissidents, including Zhai Weinan, a former student leader in the 1989 pro-democracy movement, dissident sources said Monday. The arrests brought to five the number of activists detained in less than a month, ahead of his fifth anniversary of the brutal crushing of the pro-democracy campaign at Beijing's Tiananmen Square, they said. "Zhai Weinan was detained by police on April 23, and we have had no word of him since then," a friend of Mr. Zhai's said here. Mr. Zhai, 23, had been arrested in Beijing in early March, and was then imprisoned in his home province of Henan, in central China. He had returned to the capital in late March. In Shanghai, Yang Zhou, spokesman of the Chinese Association for Human Rights, said that three local dissidents had been detained last week, including a painter, Lin Muchua, who was about to board a plane for the United States.

U.S. serial killer faces execution

CHICAGO (R) — The hour of execution of John Wayne Gacy, the man convicted of more murders than any serial killer in U.S. history, drew near Monday as lawyers worked frantically to postpone his date with death. "I will go to my death knowing what I know," said the 52-year-old Gacy in a sometimes cryptic telephone interview broadcast Sunday night by WBBM-TV in Chicago. Asked what his final thoughts were in advance of his scheduled death by lethal injection at 12:01 a.m. CDT (1:01 (0501 GMT) Tuesday, Gacy said: "We shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. I will be at peace... if you're at peace with your God... we have nothing to fear but fear itself." Gacy was convicted of killing 33 young men and boys in a sex and torture spree during the 1970s. Most of his victims were found buried in a crawl space under his suburban Chicago house. Eight of them have never been identified. Gacy's lawyers, who have lost appeal after appeal, said they planned to file another motion in federal court and perhaps make a last-minute plea for mercy to the U.S. Supreme Court.

N. Zealand under fire over migrant

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's immigration minister came under heavy fire on Monday for allowing an alleged South African white supremacist to come and live in the country. Self-styled anti-racist campaigners denounced the minister, Roger Maxwell, after his department granted residence to Jan Smith, described as an ex-leader of a white racist organisation called the Church of the Creator. "You are incompetent," Dick Cuthbert of the protest group Stop White South Africans Today (SWAT) told Mr. Maxwell in a television link-up. "You have not run your department properly... this man must be told by you personally he must leave." Prime Minister Jim Bolger waded into the controversy, telling television reporters before flying to attend Nelson Mandela's inauguration as South African president: "I don't want white supremacists coming to New Zealand."

Japan's opposition close ranks

TOKYO (AFP) — A top Japanese socialist leader said Monday his party team up with its long-time conservative foe, the Liberal Democrat Party (LDP), fighting Japan's fragile coalition government. Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Tomiochi Murayama said his party had quit the ruling coalition because of a "high-handed nature" which emphasised its numerical strength. He also told a meeting with provincial SDP officials: "We'll have no choice but to work in flexible cooperation (with the LDP) to carry through our political strategy." The SDP left the coalition when a rival political bloc, dominated by the Japan Renewal Party of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, was created following his election as prime minister last month. The SDP's pullout has resulted in Japan's first minority government in 39 years.

Elderly woman killed in N. Ireland attack

BELFAST (R) — An elderly Catholic woman was shot dead by suspected Protestant guerrillas at her house in an isolated rural area of Northern Ireland, police said on Monday. A police spokesman said Roseanne Mallon, 76, was killed on Sunday night when shots were fired through a window of the house near the town of Dungannon, about 60 kilometres west of Belfast. Mallon was watching television with her 60-year-old sister-in-law when the attack took place. The sister-in-law was not wounded but was reported to be suffering from severe shock. A police spokesman said three men were arrested and were being questioned about the murder which police suspect was carried out by Protestant gunmen. A senior police officer described the attack as "a foul sectarian murder."

Political crisis hits Lebanese government



Elias Hrawi



Rafik Hariri



Nabih Berri

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon faced a political crisis on Monday as Prime Minister Rafik Hariri sulked at home after his attempts to broaden the Christian membership in his cabinet were thwarted.

He has decided to boycott government meetings and ordered the postponement of Wednesday's weekly cabinet session after plans for a reshuffle to include more Christian figures were opposed by president Elias Hrawi, himself a Christian, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim.

Visits by all three to Damascus, the key power broker in Lebanon, failed to end the dispute.

A source close to Mr. Hariri, who is a Sunni Muslim, however, said he was not resigning while the press here warned that if he should step down Lebanon's credibility and post-war economic revival could be jeopardised.

The billionaire prime minister's appointment in October 1992 and his plans for an ambitious \$10-to-\$12 billion to rebuild war-shattered Lebanon have been a key element in renewing Western and Arab confidence and investment in Lebanon.

But his 30-member Syrian-backed government, made up equally of Christian and Muslim ministers, has failed to enjoy the trust of many Lebanese political and religious leaders.

The situation has been exacerbated by the recent arrests of dozens of former Christian militiamen, including

Aoun, also could be considered for a portfolio, the sources added.

The Christians, who consider themselves the losers of the 1975-1990 civil war, boycotted 1992 parliamentary elections and the community has been weakened by the voluntary immigration of thousands of its sons.

The reshuffle would "consolidate the domestic front at a time when Lebanon is confronted by delicate developments at home and regionally," one source said.

"It would also put an end to interference by private parties who are blocking the work of the executive branch, namely its efforts to carry out administrative reform," the source added.

But Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri are opposed to the changes proposed by Mr. Hariri.

Mr. Berri wants the finance ministry, which is controlled by

a Sunni ally of Mr. Hariri, handed over to a Shiite whom he would choose. Mr. Hrawi meanwhile wants his own Christian allies brought into the cabinet.

Last August Mr. Hariri threatened to step down citing resistance among the cabinet to his post-war reconstruction policies.

Detractors of the prime minister have frequently accused him of preferring business to politics and giving priority to reconstruction projects before social issues.

Intervention by Syria, which deploys some 35,000 troops in Lebanon, contained the summer crisis and observers here expect Damascus to step in one more time to find a solution to the latest confrontation here.

"We understand Mr. Hariri's desire to reinforce Christian representation (in the cabinet). It shows he is sensitive to popular demands," the re-

spected Al-Nahar newspaper wrote on Monday.

But it urged Mr. Hariri to outline his position publicly rather than in Damascus, where he reportedly held consultations with Syrian officials overnight Saturday.

"I am ready to resign, I miss my children," the left-wing daily Al-Safir quoted Mr. Hariri as telling mediators.

Mr. Hariri held talks with Mr. Hrawi Saturday and then visited Damascus to discuss details of the reshuffle with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, officials said.

He went on strike when he found on his return that Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri were blocking his suggestions.

The sources said several ministers were mediating between the two leaders.

Mr. Hariri said through a senior aide Sunday he would be staying at his posh residence in Beirut's Kouritem neighbourhood pending a settlement of the dispute.

"He's staying at home until further notice. He has canceled all official appointments and the regular weekly cabinet meeting on Wednesday. He is in no mood for compromise," said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Soon after Mr. Hariri's announcement, streams of well-wishers and would-be mediators from within and without government converged on his residence to try to talk him out of his decision.

Mr. Hariri also cancelled a planned televised news conference Sunday night.

COLUMN 8

Clinton's learn the high cost of scandal!

NEW YORK (R) — President Bill Clinton's aides said his legal bills total between \$250,000 and \$300,000, according to Time magazine. The latest issue of the weekly newsmagazine reported the Clintons, who have been employing lawyer David Kendall for about four months to work on the Whitewater affair, can expect to see their legal bills go higher after hiring lawyer Robert Bennett to defend the president against sexual harassment charges. Time said the first couple's worth was estimated to be just under \$1 million. Aides told the magazine the Clinton's have not authorised anyone to start raising funds privately to pay for their mounting legal bills.

2 Vietnamese held on 'slavery' charge

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand police said Monday they had arrested two Vietnamese men on charges of keeping Thai women as slaves in brothels and massage parlours. Detective Senior Sergeant Phil Jones said the arrests following police questioning of 18 Thai women and three Vietnamese men after raids in the northern city of Auckland. "We arrested one Thai woman for soliciting. We arrested two Vietnamese men for slavery and brothel-keeping, and one Vietnamese man for just brothel-keeping," he said. Sgt. Jones said slavery was defined as selling, bartering, letting or hiring another person, and carried a possible jail term of 14 years. He said by telephone from Auckland the raids followed a complaint by a Thai woman who said she had been kept as a slave but escaped. Two of the other Thai women questioned had made similar allegations. One of the two premises raided had a number of hidden rooms behind false walls, Sgt. Jones said. He declined to give details of the circumstances in which the women were held.

The sheikh said he wanted "a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians, including the right of return (of Palestinian refugees), the dismantling of all Jewish settlements and a solution to Jerusalem."

Before meeting the sheikh on Sunday, Mr. Sana held talks with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who proposed freeing the Hamas founder on condition that he called on his group to "halt terrorist acts."

Mr. Sana said Sheikh Yassin's health was deteriorating and called on the Israeli government to free him.

"His hands and feet are paralysed and he has defective sight and hearing," Mr. Sana said, adding that his release would have a "positive impact on the peace process."

Military officials quoted by an Israeli newspaper said Monday that one in every five Palestinian detainees refused to renounce violence in exchange for freedom.

Israeli authorities insist that every prisoner due to be released under the self-rule deal must "pledge to refrain from any acts of terrorism or violence," Ma'ariv noted.

On Friday, Israel announced it was suspending the release of Palestinian prisoners until further notice. More than 1,000 out of 2,500 due to be released were freed last week.

Under the accord for the PLO-Israeli accord introducing limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, but has hinted it will cooperate with the PLO once the autonomy is in place.

Mr. Sana, who represents the Arab Democratic Party in the Israeli parliament, said Mr. Sana would function as a non-violent opposition to the PLO in the autonomy.

"The Hamas express its opposition in a civilized way, just like there is an opposition in Israel," Mr. Sana said.

Hamas spokesman have said they oppose the peace agreement because it leaves out issues like the rest of the West Bank and Jerusalem. But they have, at other times, said that they will settle for nothing less than the destruction of Israel.

Mr. Sana also said the sheikh refuses to call upon his

followers to give up the armed struggle against Israel in return for his release from prison.

The sheikh said Hamas would "not use force against the PLO" to block implementation of the accord," Mr. Sana said.

The sheikh said he wanted "a just peace between Israel and the Palestinians, including the right of return (of Palestinian refugees), the dismantling of all Jewish settlements and a solution to Jerusalem."

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They planned to include in their campaign assassination of important people, both civilian and military, economists, scholars and intellectuals, bombing the Parliament building, "because it is the place where laws contrary to the Holy Koran are endorsed," and attacks on cinema houses and liquor stores.

They also fought for a short spell with the Afghan resistance groups before returning home in 1990 following the end of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Sometime in 1993, the two met and decided to set up a religious organisation against what they saw as violations of Islamic teachings. They wanted to brand the regime "un-Islamic" and their ultimate objective was to set up an Islamic state in Jordan.

They planned to include in their campaign assassination of important people, both civilian and military, economists, scholars and intellectuals, bombing the Parliament building, "because it is the place where laws contrary to the Holy Koran are endorsed," and attacks on cinema houses and liquor stores.

Women who do not wear the hijab were "un-Islamic" and could be considered as "spoils of war," just as money robbed from non-Muslims since they do not pay jizya (tax), according to a "fatwa" issued by the second suspect.

The supermarket yielded JD 23 and the grocery JD 12.

In both hold-ups they used tear-gas to flee the scene.

On Dec. 19, the two also robbed a taxi driver of JD 8 at gunpoint after taking the taxi to an isolated area in Tabarbour in Amman's suburbs and

Subsequently, all the seven were detained. During interrogation, they confessed to the crimes and revealed the details of how each hold-up was conducted.

Four others were recruited.

On Feb. 2, the gang rented a car to carry out another robbery with the participation of two of the new recruits, but the key members were arrested in the car along with the gun, tear-gas canisters and metal instruments, presumably to be used in attacks.

Subsequently, all the seven were detained. During interrogation, they confessed to the crimes and revealed the details of how each hold-up was conducted.

Deng's "thinking is still very clear" at 89

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, at 89, "is very old but his thinking is still very clear," his brother was quoted as saying. "He is very healthy," Deng Ken told Hong Kong newspapers after arriving Sunday on a private sightseeing visit. Like his older brother, Mr. Deng holds no public office. But where Deng Xiaoping continues to wield supreme influence in China, the younger Deng is little known. Some papers have said he was 86, while others